



Price of a barrel  
of petroleum

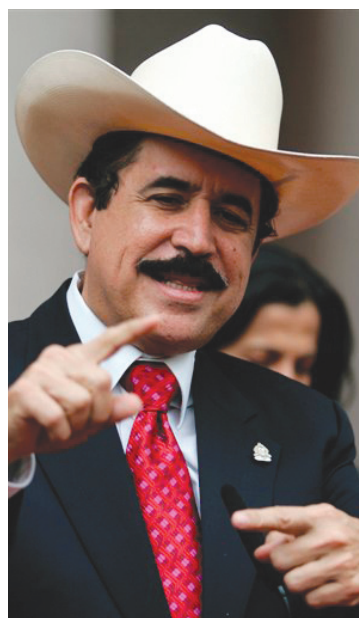
**US\$ 67.51**

↓ 3.01

**INSIDE TODAY**

**WORLD NEWS**

## COUP FLIGHT

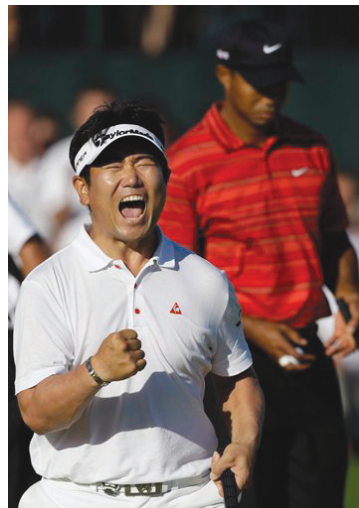


Honduras' ousted President Manuel Zelaya, speaks with journalists after meetings with Chile's President Michelle Bachelet at La Moneda presidential palace in Santiago, Thursday, Aug. 13, 2009. Zelaya was ousted from power in a coup June 28.

See International News on  
Page B8

**SPORTS NEWS**

## TOPPLER EFFECT



Y.E. Yang, of South Korea, celebrates after winning the 91st PGA Championship at the Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, Minn., Sunday, Aug. 16, 2009. At right is Tiger Woods.

See Sports Today on Page B10

*Presented by Boolchand and Tierra del Sol*

# Aruba's first golf series a great success



TIERRA DEL SOL – On Saturday, August 15th, 2009, the last of the 5 week series of events for the 2009 Tierra del Sol Heritage Cup presented by Boolchand's, concluded at Tierra del Sol Golf Course.

Over the first 4 weeks all golfers worked on getting their ranking points as high up as possible, with the three best out of the first four rounds counting towards the final.

For the final round, participants gave it their all, racing to claim the first ever Tierra del Sol Heritage Cup by Boolchand's.

*Continued on Page 9*



## Former Governor Koolman celebrates at Moby Dick's



PALM BEACH – Mr. and Mrs. Olindo and Dora Koolman were celebrating over the weekend at Moby Dick's Seafood Restaurant in the Paseo Herencia Mall. Several tourists recommended the distinguished couple to the restaurant as being the best seafood restaurant on the island, so they decided to try out Moby Dick's for themselves. To their great surprise, they were personally welcomed by the owners Brian Reeve and Gilbert Senchi. Mr. Olindo Koolman was the second Governor of Aruba and served two terms of six years as governor

from 12 March 1992 until 11 May 2004. The Governor of Aruba is the representative on Aruba of the Dutch head of state Queen Beatrix. The governor's duties are twofold: he represents and guards the general interests of the Kingdom and is head of the Aruban Government. He is accountable to the Government of the Kingdom of

the Netherlands. As the head of the Government, the Governor is immune. The Governor exercises the executive power under the responsibility of the Ministers, who are responsible to the Estates of Aruba. The Governor does not have political responsibilities and is not part of the cabinet. During the formation of a cabinet the governor plays an important role. The governor is appointed by the Queen for a period of six years. This period can be prolonged for one more term of six years. The governor is supported by his secretariat the cabinet of the governor, and is advised by the Council of Advice (Raad van Advies), consisting of at least 5 members, appointed by the governor, advising him on the drafts of state ordinances, state decrees, kingdom acts and general administrative orders. □

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*In the first Rembrandt Sailing Regatta*

## Round the Island Race won by "D-Trip" from Curaçao



PALM BEACH -- The D-Trip from Curaçao became the winner of the first race of the Rembrandt Regatta: the Round the Island race for the yachts in the Racing and Cruising Classes last Saturday. With an average wind speed of 18 knots the yachts rounded the island, battling the giant waves at Cables, the tip of the island, before coming into smoother waters when the lighthouse came into sight.

At 7 am on Saturday morning the starting sequence of the first Rembrandt Sailing Regatta began. Flags were hoisted and horn sounded. Six yachts of the Cruising Class and five in the Racing Class sailed across the starting line without incident. During the race, however, there was a protest because one of the more mature sailors forgot to round a buoy, but that was the only cloud to mark the otherwise bright blue sky. The wind was low starting out, but it picked up considerably as the day progressed.

The D-Trip made history, sailing the route in 5 hours

and 37 minutes. Team Ibis of captain Karel van Haren, also from Curaçao, came in fifteen minutes later. Then there was a break of almost half an hour until the Kosaloka crossed the finish line at the Renaissance Marketplace. Aruba's ace-in-the-hole Anthony Hagedoorn's Tranquilo came in fourth and the Dash from Curaçao in fifth. The Cruising Class was an international affair last Saturday. Supermario (Italy) came in at 2 o'clock, followed by the Venus Callipyge, the Ocean 505 and the Melody, all from Curaçao, but then the Arubans kicked in with the Rafaga (the Gust of Wind) and the Eva Luna of Regatta organizer Eric Mijts. The Eva Luna crossed the finish line an hour and three quarters after the Supermario.

On Sunday, the Beach Cats came in action, joining the three races on the west side of the island. Results of this category and of the Sunfishes and the Windsurf Kids, who held their separate Regatta races, will be announced at a later date. □

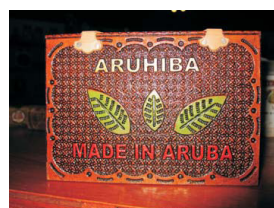
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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba.



Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open on Sunday from 9am to 8pm. And also at Tamarijn Hotel open from 9am to 1pm. Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores. Visit our authentic tobacco farm where cigars are handmade.



**BUY & RECEIVE ONE ARUBAN CIGAR FREE WITH THIS FLYER**





# Back to School At Amazonia Churrascaria

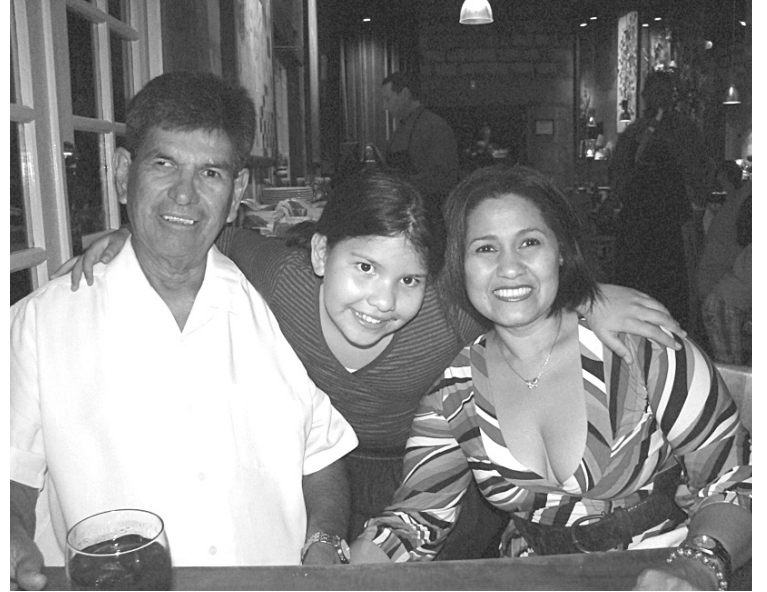


PALM BEACH – On the last vacation weekend, Amazonia Churrascaria hosted many local families who took advantage of the Back to School special

promotion. The Maduro family, with daughter Emily, she attends Colegio Pastoor Kranwinkel, joined Nathan Lioe-a-Tjan and



Charlize Wong, students of Washington School and Mon Plaisir respectively, who were dining with their parents and the Van Meeterens, dad Johnny



and wife Tania – a teacher at Washington School, who were bidding the summer farewell in the company of daughter Tiana van Meeteren – she also attends Scol Preparatorio Washington.

The restaurant offers a special each year at the end of the summer, attracting many locals families and their kids, enjoyed a festive sent off to school, with wishes for scholastic success. □



## MONDAY'S CRAB NIGHT



**\$ 34.95** per person + 15% s.c and 3% Gov. tax

Caesar salad with fresh Caribbean shrimp and Mandarin orange slices  
The GIANT crab sampler includes Alaskan king crab legs, snow crab legs, fried soft shell crab, stuffed crab back, Maryland crab cake, lemon, Tartar sauce and drawn butter.



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# De Palm Island hosts a unique beach wedding



**BALASHI--** Kenn Moris and Carina van Laeken from Antwerp, Belgium, decided to tie the knot with a destination wedding in Aruba. They have been together for 9 years and have decided to celebrate their love for one another with a commitment of marriage. Kenn and Carina are staying at Divi Mega Resort and are enjoying their stay on Aruba. Kenn's parents, long time repeat guests of the island - 15 years, always staying at Costa Linda, inspired that adventurous decision.

The senior Mr. & Mrs. Moris befriended Peter Balliere and Werner Vennen, famed restaurateurs from Belgium, as well as a number of hospitality professionals living and working here, which made for an excellent circle of family members and friends, enthusiastic about the excellent idea.

Yana 15, Rani 12, and twins Lara and Zita, 4, were naturally very pleased with their role as cute flower girls.

The wedding party arrived at Port De Palm on board the Kuku Kunucu party bus, and crossed the channel in no time, to their beach ceremony with local pastor Geoffrey, who officiated over the marriage. Myriam of the De Palm Private



Island staff and Juliette, Taste of Belgium catering, made sure the event took off smoothly with a beautiful apple tart in lieu of wedding cake!! The unique and in-ordinary

wedding party then enjoyed a private lunch at the restaurant, and stayed for the rest of the day on the beach, having a wet and wild water park, post-wedding happening. □





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At the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa

## Joanne & Cyrus B. Whitney III host a spectacular wedding party



Palm Beach -- Jake & Ellen Kerins and Cyrus & Betsy Whitney, had the pleasure of witnessing the nuptials of their daughter and son, Joanne Kerins & Cyrus B. Whitney III, at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa.

The lovebirds, from Jew Jersey, and seventy-four wedding guests enjoyed a toes-in-the-band blessing with revered Sydney Michael Jacobs, followed by an elegant dinner party on the tropical pool deck.

Guests feasted on lobster and crab cake appetizers followed by baked sea bass and grilled fillet mignon entrees, dancing to the sound of the Equator band to the wee hours.



Radisson's wedding coordinator Lisa Dammerman and event planner Lissy Lampe, made sure the party was flawlessly orchestrated.

Pictured here newly weds

Joanne & Cyrus B. Whitney III, grandpa Cyrus I and his wife of 53 years and Dad, Cyrus II and his wife of 29 years. Maid of Honor Janine Dunleavy and Best Man Eric Sherman. □



## Special Month of August!

<b>Appetizer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fish Soup</li> <li>• Onion Soup</li> <li>• Conch Fritters</li> <li>• Escargot</li> <li>• Salad</li> </ul>
<b>Entrée</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fresh Catch of the Day</b> prepared by our local chef just the way you like it.</li> <li>• <b>Jumbo Shrimp</b> from our local waters, breaded served with potato or rice or with garlic tossed over linguine.</li> <li>• <b>Filet Mignon</b> 8 oz. US Tenderloin</li> <li>• <b>Grilled Boneless Chicken Breast</b></li> </ul>
<b>Dessert</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chocolate or Banana Cake</li> <li>• Ice Cream</li> <li>• Coffee / Tea</li> </ul>

3-course dinner  
**\$24** per person

\* This special cannot be used with any other promotions, vouchers or certificates.



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**INDOOR & OPEN AIR**

## The Two Hundred



It is truly an honor and a privilege for me to address you in this prestigious paper. Today is undoubtedly a most beautiful day for the "Police Force Aruba," celebrating the date of its birth.

The day August 17th was chosen after we got our "Status Aparte".

In the first months of the year 1986, we were so busy; we hardly had time to think on ourselves.

Then one day I sat down with the Minister of Justice and knowing that his birthday was coming up, we decided to have a double celebration on August 17th.

My remarks are designed for members of the Aruban Police Force and their families, friends and the loved ones of the courageous Police Officers.

I will start with taking you back in time.

"There is a feeling of uncertainty in the air.

Many colleagues are tense and uneasy.

The Big Chief is in Aruba.

He tells some police officers: "When later on in the meeting,

I ask who is leaving, you, you, you and you all, should stand up, beat your chest with your hands and

Say: "I am leaving. I am going with the Antillian Police Force". The rest will follow.

That's the atmosphere amongst the police officers in Aruba.

The year is 1985, just months before our "Status Aparte".

The Police Force is 40% understaffed. In addition 42 more Police Officers decide to leave Aruba.

The fireworks burst into the air at midnight on January 1st. 1986, together with the country Aruba, the new "Police Force" was born.

At the helm stood one Commissioner of Police and four Police Inspectors of whom two are more loyal to the "Antillian Police Force" than to the "Korps Politie Aruba". The "backstabbing" is a daily occurrence.

Now please read with attention, because they are often forgotten and never is it mentioned, but 200 Police Officers stood their ground and showed their courage. They decided to stay to defend, protect and serve the Aruban citizens.

It was with these 200 Police Officers that all the police work had to be done.



I know that the winds of change have also blown over Aruba and that today things are different. I just simply have the need to share this with you. We must always forgive but never forget.

With the oil refinery closed and the economy in a downward spiral, it was these 200 Police Officers who stood guard day and night.

The historical annals today show that these 200 Police Officers took care that crime did not increase in the land Aruba.

Not long after the historical words were spoken by some police officers leaving Aruba: "I would not even stay for a wheelbarrow of gold" these infamous words came back to haunt them. They were now offering ... a wheelbarrow of gold to come back to Aruba.

The year 1986, closed with one Commissioner, three Police Inspectors and 200 Police Officers

These 200 Police Officers built the bridge of tranquility and assurance that we enjoy

today.

They converted many stumbling blocks into stepping stones and today look around; what you see today had its origin 23 years ago.

But some how, we have forgotten the hardship these 200 Police Officers endured. Some of these Officers have gone on to the Heavenly Father and may be directing traffic in heaven today.

I believe it's time that we recognize and honor these 200 Police Officers and pay tribute to those who have gone on.

Today I feel proud, not only as the first Police Commissioner of Aruba, but most of all I feel proud to be the Commissioner who served with the 200.

Congratulations all the members of the Police Force. Have a nice day.

God bless Aruba and its Police Force."

Remarks made by retired Commissioner of Police, Roland W. Peterson,

Celebration:

Police Day Aruba

August 17th 2009.

## Buccaneer Restaurant

Aruba's Legendary Buccaneer Restaurant, serving the freshest fish and seafood from the sea to your to your plate including steaks, duck, poultry and pasta dishes.

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## CRAZY FISH MONDAY @ BUGALOE

### Fresh 18oz Snapper or Grouper for only \$ 20

**PALM BEACH - Fresher than fresh, is the motto of the popular Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill at De Palm Pier. Caught in the morning, served at night... That's the Bugaloe way!**

Jumbled Chef Marc Hernandez is proudly presenting his rich platter with an 18oz Red Snapper or Grouper, a choice depending on the catch of that day. "Bugaloe is known for fun and craziness, so it was just a logical step for me to go crazy with this colorful pallet

of exquisite fish, yellow rice and rich vegetables," Chef Marc says. With a smile he adds "And that just for US\$ 20!"

And right he is, as the platter has been a hit from the start. Served with a bottle of white wine this fish feast is truly a delight on your Monday night.

**Bugaloe is located at De Palm Pier in Palm Beach between RIU Palace and Radisson Resort.**



#### SALSA WORKSHOP

Always wanted to learn how to dance Salsa? Well, you will get your chance on Wednesday evening. Reggie and Sabine from ArubaSalsa will show you the moves of Latin

dancing. You will learn how to dance Salsa and Merengue in one hour. The FREE workshop starts at 7:30pm. The popular Salsa live band "PM" will take care of the swinging Latin tunes. Fun guaranteed!

#### OPENING HOURS

Bugaloe Beach Bar and Grill is open daily from 8am till midnight. You may go there for a casual lunch or dinner and on Mondays the special is served from 5:30pm till 10:00pm. Reservations are not needed... just follow the good music, the fun and the smiles on the beach and you will know where Bugaloe is.



#### MENU ITEMS

Burgers, Pizzas, Salads  
Sandwiches, Wraps  
Wings & Calamari

#### HAPPY HOUR

Every day from:  
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#### WEBSITE

[WWW.BUGALOE.COM](http://WWW.BUGALOE.COM)

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**PALM BEACH** – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers up a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but **Texas de Brazil's** version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, home-made soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, **Texas de Brazil** will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

**Restaurant**  
**open daily**

Monday - Sat 6 pm - 11  
Sunday 5 pm - 11 pm

For more information or to  
make reservations, please  
call 586-4686. ☐



*“Early Bird: daily 5-7pm  
3-course dinner  
for \$29.75 per person”*

## Experience Papillon's gripping story! Introducing a catching special for the early Birds

**PALM BEACH** – Henri Charrière, one of the world's most famous prisoners, would surely have had the time of his life at Papillon Restaurant in The Village, across from the Radisson Resort. Nicknamed Papillon because of the butterfly tattoo on his chest, the Frenchman was the first convict to escape from Devil's Island, something that nobody had ever done before. Charrière's thrilling, gripping...

auto-biography has been the concept behind Papillon Restaurant. The décor, the decorations and especially the restrooms wink at the thirteen terrible years Papillon spent in prison in French Guyana. Papillon restaurant's menu reflects the Frenchman's arduous journey to freedom: classic French dishes have been dusted with daring Caribbean flair and are a culinary journey for your taste buds. The spacious outside terrace is perfect for casual fine dining; the iron bars, flecks of rust and stains on the walls make one very glad not to be in Papillon's shoes in the 1940's! Charrière would undoubtedly have loved 'his' place on Aruba: this is luxury living for anyone!

### Early Bird

Papillon Restaurant offers a daily Early Bird special. A delicious 3-course meal with a glass of house wine for just \$29.75 per person between 5pm and 7pm

### Opening hours

Papillon's opening hours are from 5 pm until midnight. The restaurant's daily specials will be explained by the staff. For reservations, please call 586 5400 or go to [www.papillonaruba.com](http://www.papillonaruba.com).

Papillon Restaurant is located in The Village, just across from the Radisson Resort.

**Papillon**  
RESTAURANT

Kitchen open every day from 5pm till 10.30pm. Early Bird from 5pm till 7pm.  
All major credit cards accepted. Reservations recommended.  
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J.E. Irausquin Blvd 348-A, Palm Beach Tel: 586 5400  
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# Aruba's first golf series a great success



## Continued from Front Page

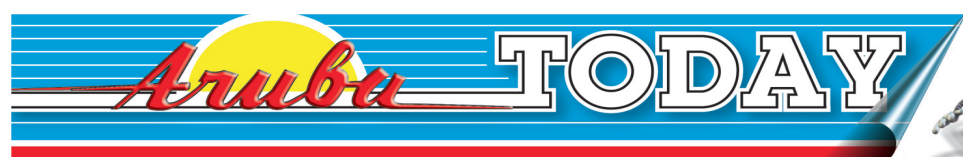
The point system used was very similar to the FedEx Cup system used on the PGA Tour and looking back at the first four weeks, this event has gotten the attention of the majority of golfers on Aruba.

Tierra del Sol is proud to team up with Boolchand's and BOSE in order to make this event a success. And even before this year's series concluded participants were already talking about next year.

The player who won this weekend's tournament was selected Golfer of the Year for Aruba in 2009.

The Golf Course at Tierra del Sol was in great shape, Saturday and the weather was perfect. The prize ceremony took place at the newly opened AMADEUS Bar & Restaurant situated at Tanki Leendert 249, next to Hot Take Away. Standings among top ten golfers going into the finals, Cisco Quant, Nigel Nedd, Stallin Tullod, Rey Rasmijn, Junior Croes, Benno Oldenhof, Orlando Rasmijn, Hunt Riley and Rafael Gallardo.

Pictured here, the shot gun start at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday with Tierra del Sol golf pros Oliver Riding & Adam Williamson and Ravee Boulchand, the main sponsor. □



KEEP ARUBA CLEAN...





# The French Steakhouse delivers dining under the stars

Eagle Beach – The French Steakhouse at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa just added another charming dining option, a tropical outdoor courtyard, featuring delicious cuisine under the stars.

The famed French Steakhouse prides itself on the elegant dining experience it offers patrons in the fully air-conditioned dining room. Yet recently the idea of adding a garden spot to the existing blueprint began to sprout in the creative mind of Executive Chef George Hoek, and he immediately recruited

the landscapers to create the intimate, lovely setting.

The French Steakhouse Ooh-La-La menu is now served indoor and alfresco, featuring creative appetizers, soups, salads, seafood dishes, poultry and the Pièce de Résistance South American & USDA Beef specialties.

Among popular appetizers the chef's Tropical Crab Cakes with pineapple & mango salsa and the Teriyaki Glazed Seared Duck Breast, served with garden greens and balsamic dressing are real crowd pleasers.



True to the restaurant's French roots, the Onion Soup is a classic, while the Honey Glazed Salmon Salad winks at the exotic East with a sweet soy dressing.

The menu features a great variety of seafood dishes from fresh fish to the totally sinful and amazingly-decadent Caribbean Stuffed Shrimp with Crabmeat and Bacon, which became an instant hit. The tequila and sweet chili glaze, lends the Jumbo shrimp a pure taste of heaven!

The French Steakhouse is naturally famous for the South American Churrasco steak, a signature preparation, which now shares the stage with juicy USDA beef specialties such as NY Sirloin and Filet Mignon. Light-eaters will find the Jerk Chicken Skewers and the Lemon Herb Broilers very satisfying.

Open seven days a week from 5:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. the French Steakhouse is blessed with the nicest staff and a delightfully renovated dining

room with sparkling China, crisp linen, an interesting bread basket, colossal desserts and live jazz on piano with Eddy Samson who is Aruba's best entertainer, and a walking & breathing music encyclopedia, just whistle the tune, and Eddy will produce a symphonic version of your favorite song.

Hungry patrons will appreciate the Ambassador's 5-course menu featuring the run of the menu highlights for just \$34.95 per person. [www.manchebo.com steakhouse](http://www.manchebo.com steakhouse)



## Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano introduces Menu Turistico



Eagle Beach -- Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano located at the heart of the low-rise hotels at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa, delivers authentic Mediterranean flavors, at a reasonable price. The restaurant has just introduced Menu Turistico a three-course dinner featuring appetizers, main courses and desserts for just \$19.95, per person, plus 15% service charge.

Patrons may choose between home made soup and Caesar salad, Fettuccini Alfredo, Lasagna Casarecia, Spaghetti alla Bolognese or any favorite pizza with Tiramisu, Cheese Cake or Ice Cream for the sweet finale.

Posing with Angelo the Italian maitre D' at Giorgio's, Mr and Mrs. Klaus, from Pennsylvania, 2nd time repeaters in Aruba at the Manchebo, the trip was a birthday present from him to her and since they are celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in November, they are already thinking about coming back, they enjoyed Menu Turistico and recommend it wholeheartedly! □

## Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar reinvents Beach Cuisine



Eagle Beach – Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa deserves recognition as the home of Beach Cuisine.

Executive Chef George Hoek and his culinary team serve a Sun Splashed menu on the ocean front terrace,

raising the bar to a must-visit, must-try status.

The contemporary menu, lists many favorite dishes from around the world, borrowing inspiration from US, Mexican, Thai, Jamaican, Cuban, Greek and Mediterranean kitchens, all served with a tropical, Caribbean flair.

From Sun-Sational Salads, to Cuban pressed jawbreakers and wraps, mid-day platters also include oversized Beef Burgers, Philly Cheese Steak Sandwiches and Hot Dogs.

The Pega Pega tropical &

frozen cocktail list, with fresh fruit or ice cream smoothies, daiquiris, coladas and margaritas, leaves nothing out, including Yellow Birds, Sex on the Beach and Mudslides, making a lunch-time brain-freeze, extremely easy to get!

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# Parliament to examine proposal to keep pensioners well insured

PHILIPSBURG--Central Committee of Parliament will examine a proposal from Health Minister Omayra Leeftang to begin insuring pensioners who are age 60 and older, ahead of an amendment to the Health Insurance Law. Parliament President Pedro Atacho said that the minister will present her proposal Tuesday morning that is supposed to ensure total health care coverage to people 60 years and older and their families.

As it stands, upon attaining age 60, pensioners and their families are no longer covered, and at this time, either they cannot get private coverage or it is too expensive for them. All workers in the Netherlands Antilles, unless they have private insurance, must be part of the general health insurance scheme.

The total premium is paid by

the employer (8.3 per cent), employee (2.1 per cent) and the Central Government (2.1 per cent). The amount of the premium differs based on the category of worker. Pensioners will have to pay a premium of 10.4 per cent to get the insurance coverage which is much less than they would have to pay to get private coverage if they qualified.

The broadening of the health insurance coverage, managed by the Social Insurance Bank, will benefit all pensioners if parliament allows the application prior to the amendment of the law.

The draft amendment should reach parliament in the near future and will make the Antilles compliant with the non-discrimination clause of the International Treaty on Civil and Policy Rights.

Also on the agenda of

parliamentarians next week are several committee meetings covering obesity, planning for contact plan sessions and other topics.

During Monday's meeting, parliament will decide on Atacho's attendance at the board meeting of the Parliament of Latin America, of which the Antilles is a member. The meeting is set for Panama City and will focus on Food Security.

Atacho will attend the World Summit on Food Security in Rome, Italy in November, as Vice President of the Latin American Parliament.

The committee on Kingdom Affairs and Inter-Parliamentary Relations will meet with the Antilles Air Traffic Control, also on Tuesday, about the air traffic

control income from Aruba. The committee will begin preparations for the bi-partite meeting between the Antilles and Aruba and the tripartite meeting with Surinam in November.

The committee on Public Health will decide about the follow-up to the implementation of parliament's report on Obesity: The Silent Epidemic. The committee will also consider a proposal tabled by Atacho to come up with a new tax system that increases levies on fatty food and lowers taxes on vegetables. Also suggested is that restaurants, particularly fast food ones, print number of calories of the items on their menus, "so the general public can make the right decision about what

they want to eat," Atacho said.

The special committee on Parlatino will continue preparations on Wednesday for the meeting of Latin America parliaments scheduled for November in Curaçao.

A public meeting of parliament will be held next Thursday to approval the proposal of government for a new commercial registry. This has been proposed by government after much discussion with stakeholders on all five islands, in particular the Chambers of Commerce. This new public registry will have the listing of companies/businesses, foundations and associations for better transparency in accordance with the new Civil Code. □

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# HEALTH

## Aruba TODAY

AP ENTERPRISE:

# Schools gear up for swine flu shots



This photo taken Wednesday, July 29, 2009, shows would be kindergartners given hand sanitizer before going to lunch at a summer school program in Montgomery County's Brookhaven Elementary School, in Rockville, Md.

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

By LIBBY QUAID and LAURAN NEERGAARD, Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON — Hundreds of schools are heeding the government's call to set up flu-shot clinics this fall, preparing for what could be the most widespread school vaccinations since the days of polio.

An Associated Press review of swine flu planning suggests there are nearly 3 million students in districts where officials want to offer the vaccine once federal health officials begin shipping it in mid-October.

Many more may get involved: The National Schools Boards Association told the AP three-quarters of the districts in a recent survey agreed to allow vaccinations in school buildings.

In South Carolina, "there will be a massive attempt to use schools as vaccination centers," said state Superintendent Jim Rex. He plans at least one vaccination clinic in each of the state's 85 school districts. South Dakota started offering free children's vaccination

against regular winter flu in 2007, and this year it plans to offer both kinds in many schools, said state Health Secretary Doneen Hollingsworth.

Now come the difficult details: figuring out all the logistics in giving squirmy youngsters a shot in the arm or a squirt in the nose.

That's in addition to measures being taken to keep the swine flu virus from spreading inside schools and to keep sick kids at home.

Already, Lee County, Miss., schools have reported a few cases of swine flu the first week of school, and a Louisiana high school football team reported 20 players sick or recovering from it.

To make sure students wash their hands, Minneapolis schools have outfitted every restroom with tamperproof soap dispensers, so students don't horse around with soap. And the district has a no-excuses policy to keep them filled.

"It sounds so simple, but it works," district emergency management director Craig

Vana said.

Bismarck, N.D., is insisting that parents keep feverish children home. "We're going to have to be a little firmer on that this year than in the past," superintendent Paul Johnson said.

It can be hard to tell if a child has a bad cold or flu — and swine flu and regular flu share the same symptoms. For many schools, a 100-degree temperature automatically means sending a child home.

The goal is to keep schools open; federal officials said last week schools should close only as a last resort. The emergence of the never-before-seen flu strain last spring prompted more than 700 schools to temporarily close, giving students an unexpected vacation as parents scrambled to find child care.

Some big states, like California, Ohio and Massachusetts, are focusing on those steps and not on vaccinations, because they don't know how much vaccine the federal government will send or when it will arrive. Boston has decided against in-school vaccinations because an attempt at regular winter flu inoculations at a middle school last year flopped, and Dallas officials also have decided against school shots. But hundreds of districts are preparing for vaccinations. At least 700 health and school officials joined an online seminar last week by the National Association of County & City Health Officials on how to run school flu vaccinations.

The government is awaiting results of vaccine studies that began last week before making a final decision on whether and how to offer swine-flu inoculations. If vaccinations go forward, children are to be among the first in line. They

could get vaccine at a variety of places, but federal officials want schools to play a starring role.

"The vaccine over time will be available to every child," Education Secretary Arne Duncan said in an interview with the AP. "And I personally think the best place for them to have access would be at their local school or at a school in their neighborhood."

An AP-GfK poll last month found parents like that convenience: Nearly two-thirds said they were likely to give permission if their child's school offered vaccinations.

The school setting is attractive for many reasons, said Dr. Anne Schuchat of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Swine flu seems to strike the young most often, and it's particularly easy to spread from child to child. Moreover, school-age children "don't see doctors very often," Schuchat told the AP, after they've accumulated the list of vaccinations required for school entry.

She added that it should be relatively easy for schools to offer flu-shot clinics because the federal government would be buying swine flu vaccine and sending it free to states.

"You won't have to screen for insurance. That's been a big challenge in school-associated regular flu-shot clinics," Schuchat said. "That slows down the process."

There is plenty of experience with vaccinating school kids for regular flu, and there is plenty of evidence it works.

For the fourth year running, Knox County, Tenn., vaccinated 30,000 children for free in schools and daycare centers last year. The county often closed schools because of winter flu outbreaks in

the past, but it hasn't since vaccinations began.

And in the last flu pandemic, in 1968, Tecumseh, Mich., vaccinated 85 percent of its school-age children, resulting in two-thirds less illness there than in a neighboring community.

There is an important difference with this year's swine-flu inoculations: Health officials think two separate doses, about three weeks apart, will be needed. Studies are under way now to confirm that. If so, it means any school that offers the first shot must set up for each recipient to get the second dose.

Different school districts handle vaccinations differently. Some will offer only vaccine against the regular winter flu — also important, as both types are expected to hit this year. In Florida's Pinellas County, which includes St. Petersburg, the health department won an economic stimulus grant to vaccinate every student at all 78 elementary schools against seasonal flu, said Rita Becchetti, supervisor of school health services.

That could be confusing for parents trying to remember which vaccine their child is getting.

Chicago, on the other hand, probably will have swine-flu shot clinics at select high schools, not elementary schools, saying it simply doesn't have the workers to send teams to more than 600 schools.

Berkeley County, W.Va., is considering drive-thru vaccinations at its three high schools, said district official George Michael.

In New York City, swine flu exploded in the spring at Saint Francis Preparatory School, which sent home 102 sick kids in one day. □



# BUSINESS

## Aruba TODAY

### Wall Street sees shoppers as key to rally's future



An outside view of the New York Stock Exchange on Wall street. Wall Street's spectacular run has hit a speed bump, with investors pausing to digest gains and pondering how far the rally can go in an economy showing signs of recovery along with lingering weakness.

By STEPHEN BERNARD,  
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — On Wall Street, the average shopper can trump a Federal Reserve policy maker.

With other parts of the economy showing signs of improvement, the question of when a recovery will occur and how strong it will be lies with consumers. So reports last week showing weaker-than-expected retail sales and flagging consumer confidence overshadowed an upbeat view of the economy from the Federal Reserve. The major indexes ended the week with a loss of about half a percent, their first weekly losses in five weeks. "Anything pointing to the health of the consumer and its willingness to spend is going to be watched closely," said Ryan Jacob, president of Jacob Asset Management in Los Angeles.

This week, the consumer is in focus again as a stream of retailers report second-quarter earnings. Wall Street will want to know if retail companies, like businesses in other industries, made money primarily because of cost-cutting rather than from

improved revenue or sales.

The nation's biggest retailer, Wal-Mart Stores Inc., last week followed the trend set by other companies, reporting earnings that beat Wall Street forecasts but also saying that its most important sales, those from stores open at least a year, fell during the quarter. And it's likely that other retailers still to announce results will continue that pattern.

Eventually, investors will need to see rising sales in order to become confident about the economy's ability to show sustained growth. Consumer spending accounts for more than two-thirds of the nation's economic activity.

"We'll get a very good range of what retail sales actually look like" this week, said Jamie Cox, managing partner at Harris Financial Group in Richmond, Va. Cox noted that retailers from across the pricing and product spectrum are reporting results.

Off-price retailer TJX Cos. and the high-end Saks Inc. report results Tuesday, while apparel retailer Gap Inc. provides its earnings data on Thursday. Home improvement retailers Lowe's Cos. and Home Depot

Inc. also release results this week, as do Target Corp., BJ's Wholesale Club and Barnes & Noble Inc.

Stock gains were muted after the Commerce Department said Thursday that retail sales fell 0.1 percent in July, significantly worse than the 0.7 percent increase economists expected. The news was bad again Friday, when a new reading on consumer sentiment was much lower than expected. Major indexes tumbled about 1 percent that day. News of the Reuters/University of Michigan consumer sentiment survey wiped out the surge of optimism the market had after the Federal Reserve on Wednesday said the economy was "leveling out."

Cox said there is a split between Wall Street and Main Street over the economy's potential recovery. The rally that began after the stock market bottomed out in early March shows investors are confident a recovery is coming in the near future, while the average American is a bit more cautious, he said.

Friday's consumer sentiment report was a jolt for traders about exactly how uncomfortable consumers still are with their finances and the state of the economy.

One of the biggest worries for people is the job market. Jacob said that while growing consumer confidence would be a welcome sign for the market, "with unemployment still trending higher, it's hard to expect too much progress." Harvey Robinson, chief investment officer at Robinson Capital Group in Dayton, Md., said that because of questions about the job market, there is still no clear sign about the timing or strength of a recovery. □



A "Cash-for-Clunkers" vehicle sits in a dumpster at a dealership in Maryland advertising that they are participating in the US government program. The US economy appears poised to emerge from recession but will struggle for some time, held back by a weak job market and cautious consumers, analysts say.

(AFP/File/Paul J. Richards)

### US recovery is in view, but struggles persist

by Rob Lever

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The US economy appears poised to emerge from recession but will struggle for some time, held back by a weak job market and cautious consumers, analysts say. The world's biggest economy is giving mixed signals as the manufacturing sector picks up and the housing market shows signs of steadying but retail sales remain sluggish.

The latest data showed gross domestic product (GDP) -- the broad measure of the economy's activity -- fell at an annualized rate of 1.0 percent in the second quarter, after a 6.4 percent plunge in the January-March period.

Unemployment dipped in July to 9.4 percent, one-tenth point lower than the 26-year high hit in June as job losses narrowed to 247,000.

But US retail sales unexpectedly dipped 0.1 percent in July with consumers pulling back despite rising auto sales stimulated by the government's "Cash for Clunkers" trade-in incentives. A widely watched survey of consumer sentiment, a harbinger of spending trends, showed Americans remain wary of the economic outlook.

Sal Guatieri at BMO Capital Markets said consumer skittishness will mute any recovery.

"Consumer spending has retrenched 2.0 percent through the recession, explaining half of the deepest economic downturn since the 1930s," he said.

"In our view, spending probably won't regain its pre-recession peak until early 2011," he added.

"It goes without saying that until savings, unemployment and foreclosures stop climbing, credit-constrained consumers will retain a bunker mentality. While the Great Recession may be history -- thanks to inventory rebuilding, renewed export growth and pulled-forward demand -- a not-so-great recovery is likely the offspring."

Nonetheless, many economists say the brutal recession that began in December 2007 is likely over, even if the data to bear that out will not be known for some months.

"The economy has emerged from recession, in our view, and will likely experience a cyclical bounce in the second half of the year," said Michelle Meyer, economist at Barclays Capital. □



## Aruba TODAY

**Publisher**

John Chemaly Sr.

**Managing Director**

John A. Chemaly Jr.

**General Manager**

Grace Mary Maduro

Caribbean Speed  
Printing N.V.  
Westraat # 22

Oranjestad, Aruba  
Tel: (297) 582-7800  
Fax: (297) 582-7044

www.arubatoday.com

E-mail news@arubatoday.com

**Editor-in-Chief**

Julia C. Renfro

**Contributing Editors**

Angela Muzenhofer

Jan Falcone

**International Editor**

Richard Brooks

**Sales Team**

Elly Erasmus

Mareijke Croes

Wendy Kelkboom

**Page Designer**

Dina Maria

**Advertising Coordinator**

Sandra Loefstop-Duarte

aviso@bondia.com

bondia.aruba@gmail.com

## AMERICANS ARE STARTING TO SEE A LESS-PROSPEROUS FUTURE

By Cynthia Tucker

Those chaotic town-hall meetings make for dramatic TV reports, but they don't say much about the mood of the country. Most Americans are not angry.

We're worried. While polls can't quite capture it, the dog days of August have drained many of us of enthusiasm for "change," energy for civic activism and even hope for the future.

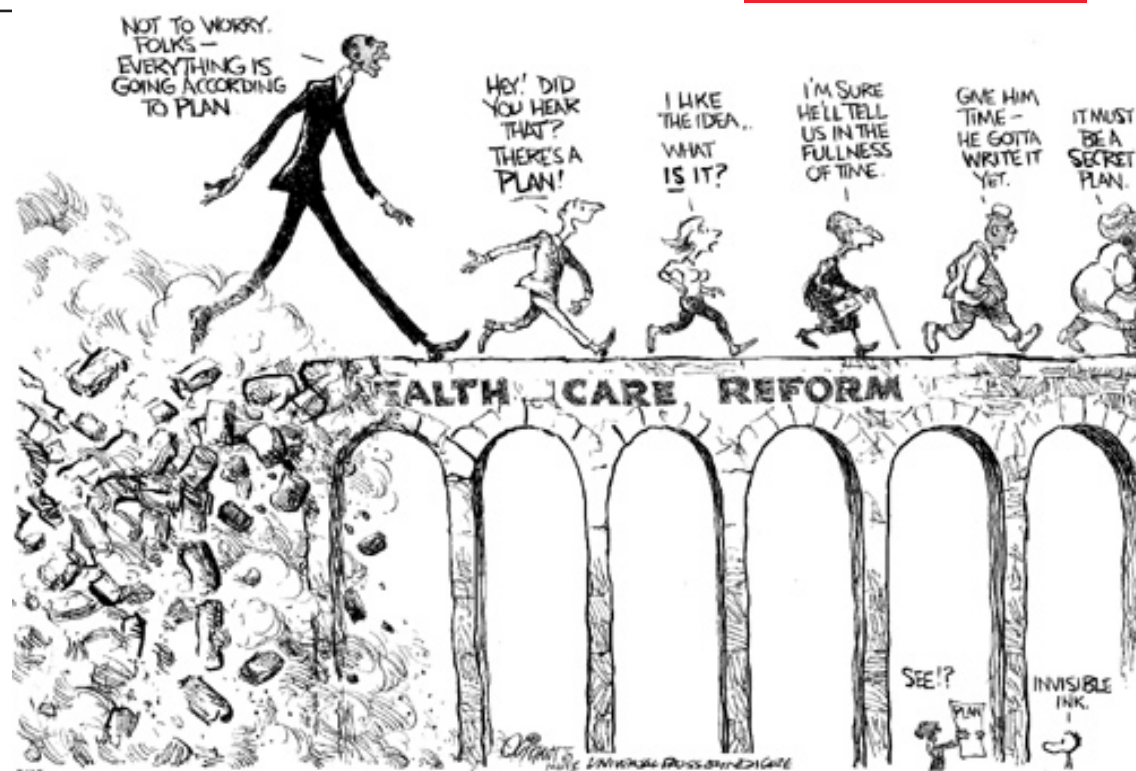
Obama spent much of the past fall and early winter reminding constituents that the economy had fallen into a savage recession "years in the making," and even enacting his policies wouldn't create instant nirvana. Polls taken at the time suggested that Americans were aware that the "Great Recession" was the worst economic crisis since the 1930s and wouldn't be cured quickly. But intellectual understanding -- conveyed in the answers we give pollsters -- and emotional, gut-level awareness are two different things. Now that the official unemployment numbers are trending toward 10 percent, foreclosures are continuing apace and credit is still very tight, patience is wearing thin.

Those of us who still have jobs, and the vast majority of us do, know someone who was laid off, bought out or eased into early retirement. We're cutting back, saving those tax cuts instead of going to the mall. And we're just a little irritated by those economists who insist that the recession is probably over. Jobs, we're told, are "lagging indicators." Your banker isn't interested in a lagging mortgage payment.

Many of the conservative town-hall protestors -- those who sympathize with the man who held up the "Obamadinejad" sign comparing Obama to the president of Iran -- are angry about cultural changes that have remade the country in a relatively short period of time. They represent a graying minority who wouldn't be happy if Obama could grow money trees and hand everybody \$200,000 checks.

But most of us are anxious about another sort of cultural change that hasn't gotten nearly as much attention: a decline that suggests the economy of the future will not yield the broad prosperity we've come to expect, even when jobs return. A new normal that will not allow each generation to grow more affluent than the last. The rise of competing powers such as China and India and even Brazil, which portends an America struggling for good-paying jobs.

Obama is aware of the changes on the horizon. That's why he's spoken of creating whole new industries -- "green" jobs in alternative energy and climate-change-related sectors yet untapped. He has talked about ending the "boom-and-bust" cycles of the last several decades, most recently demonstrated by the housing bubble and the deafening pop that followed. □



## OF PROMISE AND PROMISES

By David M. Shribman

In about a week the president will go to Martha's Vineyard for his summer vacation. There he'll have time to stroll the beach, maybe take a nap, almost surely look back on seven of the most exhilarating and difficult months of his life, and of the life of his country. As he reflects on those months, what questions is he likely to ask, and how is he likely to answer them? Here's a guess:

Did I translate the hope and optimism of the campaign into the presidency? There is nothing like a presidential campaign to set up a presidency for failure: all those adoring crowds, all those caucus and primary victory statements amid the cheering and the bunting, all that promise and, worse yet, all those promises.

Barack Obama had more than his share of all of those. He campaigned on hope, which even a president and a compliant legislature cannot enact into law. He then faced the difficult chore of translating hope into reality, and in truth the record isn't half bad. The six-month appraisal poll taken for Time magazine shows that 51 percent of the public believes that the country is heading in the right direction.

That's a good sign. But there are danger signs, too. About three out of five persons believe the final health care measure will raise their medical costs, according to the poll. About the same rate believes the new health care scheme will make their medical lives more complicated. And more than half fear it will give them less freedom to choose their doctors and coverage. One more element, another danger sign: A summer poll taken by National Journal shows that only 31 percent believe that their children will have more opportunity than they had -- as opposed to 36 percent who believe they will have fewer opportunities. The disparity is even greater among men, who by a 41-to-21 percent split believe their children will have less opportunity than they had. (Among women, the disparity is about the margin of error.) In the nautical language of island Massachusetts, the breezes seem gentle now, but gales are gathering offshore.

Does hope really matter all that much anyway? Sure it does, at least in this country. The United States is an optimist's paradise; we believe in many things here, but most of all we believe in opportunity, progress -- and in believing itself. More than half the public believes the president is doing a good job. (Sobering news: He's at about the same level as Jimmy Carter and Richard Nixon at the same time in their presidencies.)

But hope is more than Obama's oxygen. It is his peculiar form of political capital. He has a lot of it, and now he is going to have to spend it. The question is whether it can buy the kind of health system overhaul he promised in the campaign, or whether it will be sufficient only to buy the kind that the lobbyists and the lawmakers are telling him he must accept. So far Obama's political capital is still on the sideline. Capitol Hill is waiting for him to move it into the game.

How about health care? This is where rhetoric meets reality. Obama hoped for a health care bill before his summer vacation. He will be lucky to get it before his Thanksgiving break. All the forces of opposition that until now have been quiescent suddenly have mobilized. They are ambushing his Democratic allies (and, worse yet, the undecideds and moderates) at town hall meetings during the congressional recess, and though Democrats are complaining about the tumult at these sessions, they have a grudging admiration of the organizational reach of their opponents. Health care overhaul is still a work in progress, though to the naked eye not all that much progress is being made this month. The president and Congress will come back from their summer holiday sobered by the obstacles and stunned by their opponents' ferocity. The unknown is how that new sobriety will affect their strategies and their choices. You might think of the month ahead as a duel between two statistics: The Time poll shows that 86 percent of Americans are satisfied with their current health care plan. (There is almost no question in American life that gets an 86 percent affirmative answer.) □





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# Memphis producer, musician Jim Dickinson dies



**FILE - In this Wednesday, June 11, 2008 file photo, Jim Dickinson stands outside his farm in Coldwater, Miss. Dickinson, a musician and producer who helped shape the Memphis sound in an influential career that spanned more than four decades, has died. He was 67.**

*(AP Photo/Greg Campbell, File)*

**By CHRIS TALBOTT,**  
**Associated Press Writer**

JACKSON, Miss. — Jim Dickinson, a musician and producer who helped shape the Memphis sound in a career that spanned more than four decades, died Saturday. He was 67.

His wife, Mary Lindsay Dickinson, said he died in a Memphis, Tenn., hospital after three months of heart and intestinal bleeding problems.

The couple lived in Hernando, Miss., but Dickinson recently had bypass surgery and was undergoing

rehabilitation at Methodist University Hospital, his wife said. Jim Dickinson, perhaps best known as the father of Luther and Cody Dickinson, two-thirds of the Grammy-nominated North Mississippi Allstars, managed an outsider's career in an insider's industry. He recorded with and produced greats like Aretha Franklin, Bob Dylan, Big Star, the Rolling Stones, The Replacements and Sam & Dave.

His work in the 1960s and '70s is still influential as young artists rediscover the classic sound of Memphis from that era — a melting pot of rock, pop, blues, country, and rhythm and blues.

"I think he was an incredibly influential individual," Big Star drummer Jody Stephens said Saturday. "I think he defined independent spirit in music, and I think that touched a lot of people."

Dickinson's music was informed by his eclectic and encyclopedic record collection — sold off and rebuilt a few times over the years, usually around Christmas — and his wide array of friends.

"As a producer, it really is all about taste," Jim Dickinson said in a 2008 interview with The Associated Press. "And I'm not the greatest piano player in the world, but I've got damn good taste. I'll sit down and go taste with anybody."

A dabbler in music while in college and later in shows at the famed Overton Park Shell in Memphis, Dickinson was on his way to becoming "a miserable history teacher." But his wife insisted he focus on his music after watching him play shows with the blues legends of Memphis.

"They were rediscovering Furry Lewis and Sleepy John Estes, Rev. Robert Wilkins, these talents that were like gods," Mary Lindsay Dickinson said in 2008. "They were street sweepers. They were yard men. They had no money, no fame, even though they'd invented this style, this musical style that was changing the world. When I saw what he could do with them — he thought he was gonna be a history teacher — I said, 'No, no, no, no, let's try music and see what happens.'" Jim Dickinson moved around,

traveling with both his own projects and as a sideman until his sons were born. He gave up the road and the lifestyle, built a home studio and settled in to the hard-scrabble life of the independent producer that he jokingly compared to hustling.

His sense of humor, gift for storytelling and open door kept musicians filing through his studio and kitchen as his sons grew up. He took an interest in the boys' music as another father might his sons' baseball career, even drawing Luther and Cody into his own bands. They last released an album together as Jungle Jim and the Voodoo Tiger in 2006.

"Growing up he would play piano and electric guitar and it just always fascinated me, and I always had a little toy guitar of some sort around," Luther Dickinson said in 2008. "And I've really been blessed because I always knew what I wanted to do and it was totally because of my dad and his friends."

Dickinson's career touched on some of the most important music made in the '60s and '70s. He recorded the Rolling Stones' "Wild Horses" in Muscle Shoals, Ala.; formed the Atlantic Records house band The Dixie Flyers to record with Franklin and other R&B legends in Miami; inspired a legion of indie rock bands through his work with Big Star; collaborated with Ry Cooder on a number of movie scores, including "Paris, Texas;" and played with Dylan on his Grammy-winning return to prominence, "Time Out of Mind."

He credited his work with Big Star on "Third/Sister Lovers" with keeping his tape reels turning over the years, and Stephens found Dickinson's fingerprints all over the album when he listened to it recently.

"There's so many contributions from people that Jim either brought in or helped steer," Stephens said. "And sometimes a brilliant decision is to do nothing, allow space and that sort of thing. His keyboard part in 'Kizza Me' is this great fractured piano that kind of cascades, like the piano's falling down a flight of steps. I think it was all about the spirit and the emotion." □



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## Polish village prays for Madonna to visit

WARSAW (Reuters) - Pop diva Madonna may have upset some Catholic Poles by timing her debut Polish concert to coincide with a big religious holiday on Saturday, but she is sure of a warm welcome if she visits the tiny village of Rumin. In Rumin in central Poland, her fans plan to name a street after her and want to make her an honorary 'citizen'. If she does visit, the young girls of the

village also intend to perform dances for her in the freshly harvested fields. "Rumin is like Madonna, Rumin is top. Rumin is trendy, Rumin is fashion. That's the general idea and we want to underline that Rumin is very similar to Madonna. And we want Madonna to join Rumin by accepting honorary citizenship," said Mariusz Ciszak, the main organizer of the campaign.

He has designed Madonna T-shirts and sweaters which some of the villagers are now wearing.

It was not clear on Friday whether Madonna had any plans to visit the village, about 230 km (143 miles) west of Warsaw, during her stay.

Madonna has upset some believers in devoutly Roman Catholic Poland by timing her Polish debut concert to coincide with the day when Christians mark the Virgin Mary's ascension to heaven. Madonna has often annoyed conservative Christians, kissing an actor playing Jesus in one of her videos and staging a crucifixion scene in her last world tour.

As well as her Warsaw concert, the singer is also expected to pay a visit to the former Nazi death camp of Auschwitz in southern Poland where up to 1.5 million people, mostly Jews, perished during World War Two.

Madonna is a follower of the Kabbalah, a mystical strand of Judaism, though she is not Jewish and was raised as a Catholic. □



US pop diva Madonna performs during her Sticky and Sweet Tour concert at Bemowo Airport in Warsaw on August 15, 2009. Pop diva Madonna arrived Sunday in the Italian Riviera resort of Portofino for a star-studded 51st birthday celebration, the ANSA news agency reported.

(AFP/File)



A young girl waits for the start of a memorial service for Michael Jackson in Gary, Indiana, Jackson's boyhood hometown. Jackson's outlandish life is being overshadowed in his death by events so preposterous they seem to come from a fiction writer's overactive imagination.

(AFP/Getty Images/File/Tasos Katopodis)



## Obama administration appears ready to drop 'public option'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bowing to Republican pressure and an uneasy public, President Barack Obama's administration signaled on Sunday it is ready to abandon the idea of giving Americans the option of a new government-run insurance program as part of an overhaul of the U.S. health care system.

Facing mounting opposition to the overhaul, administration officials left open the chance for a compromise with Republicans that would include nonprofit health insurance cooperatives instead of a government-run plan. Such a concession would likely enrage his liberal supporters but could deliver Obama a much-needed win on a top domestic priority opposed by Republican lawmakers.

Officials from both political parties reached across the aisle in an effort to find compromises on proposals they left behind when they returned to their districts for an August recess.

*Continued on next Page*



Kathy Straughan protests the health care reform plan supported by President Barack Obama during a rally Saturday Aug. 15, 2009 in Atlanta. Several thousand people gathered in downtown Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park to protest health care reform proposed by the president and Congressional Democrats.

*Associated Press*

## Dry winds, heat fan wildfires across California



A firefighter battles the Lockheed Fire as it threatens to jump a road in unincorporated Santa Cruz County, Calif., on Friday, Aug. 14, 2009.

LOUISE CHU

*Associated Press Writer*

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. — Hot, dry winds and high temperatures fanned wildfires

across California Sunday, pushing firefighters into rugged terrain to contain the flames and guard against new blazes.

"Things are so dry out there that it doesn't take much for a spark or an ember to quickly develop into a wildfire," said CalFire spokesman Daniel Berlant.

A fire near the Santa Cruz mountain communities of Swanton and Bonny Doon was about 50 percent contained Sunday, after burning 10 square miles since Wednesday and leading to mandatory evacuations of about 2,400 residents. The blaze threatened more than 250 homes and had damaged two outbuildings.

*Continued on Page B5*

## Tropical Storm Claudette threatens Florida Panhandle



Sue Arkell, center rear, rides a wave generated by Tropical Storm Claudette in Panama City Beach, Fla., Sunday, Aug. 16, 2009.

*Associated Press*

MELISSA NELSON

*Associated Press Writer*

PENSACOLA BEACH, Florida (AP) — Brewing in the Gulf of Mexico, Tropical Storm Claudette was bringing heavy rain to the Florida Panhandle Sunday, likely becoming the first tropical storm to strike the U.S. mainland this year.

Claudette had winds of at least 50 mph, but was not expected to cause significant flooding or wind damage. Lurking more ominously was Tropical Storm Bill, which was quickly turning into a powerful storm over warm waters in the open Atlantic with sustained winds of 65 mph.

*Continued on Page B3*



John Yettaw of Falcon, Missouri, sits in a vehicle after he arrived in Bangkok on a US government plane in this image taken from TV Sunday Aug. 16, 2009.

*Associated Press*

## Myanmar release of U.S. man could thaw relations

AMBIKA AHUJA

*Associated Press Writer*

BANGKOK (AP) — Myanmar freed an ailing American whom it had sentenced to seven years of hard labor and handed him to an influential U.S. senator on Sunday, a move that could help persuade Washington to soften its hardline policy against the military regime.

*Continued on Page B6*



**PUBLIC OPTION**

*Continued from Page B1*

Obama had wanted the government to run a health insurance organization to help cover the nation's almost 50 million uninsured, but didn't include it as one of his core principles of reform. Reforming the U.S. health care system is arguably Obama's most challenging political fight yet as president, in no small part because of the vast number of diverse stakeholders involved. His goal is to ensure health care for everyone in a country with the world's costliest system. Any plan must get through a Democratic-controlled Congress, where many lawmakers are up for re-election next year. Also, there's an ideological fault line between Democrats and Republicans, and liberals and conservatives over the level of government involvement in

health care.

"I am confident that when all is said and done, we can forge the consensus we need to achieve this goal," Obama wrote in an opinion piece published Sunday in The New York Times.

"We are already closer to achieving health-insurance reform than we have ever been."

He added that there is "broad agreement in Congress on about 80 percent of what we're trying to do."

Obama said his reforms were intended to provide a choice of high-quality, affordable coverage for uninsured Americans; bring skyrocketing health care costs under control; make the government-run Medicare program for seniors more efficient; and provide basic consumer protections to hold insurance companies accountable.

Health and Human Services



**President Barack Obama and his daughter Malia Obama, 11, left, listens to Park Ranger Katy Duffy, right, with Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar as they tour the Old Faithful geyser in Yellowstone National Park, Wyo. Saturday, Aug. 15, 2009.**

Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said that a new government alternative to private health insurance is "not the essential element" of the administration's health care overhaul. The White House would be open to co-ops, she said, a sign that Democrats want a compromise so they can declare a victory.

Under a proposal by Sen. Kent Conrad, a North Dakota Democrat, consumer-owned nonprofit cooperatives would sell health insurance in competition with private industry, not unlike the way electric and agriculture co-ops operate, especially in rural states such as his own.

With \$3 billion to \$4 billion in initial support from the government, the co-ops would operate under a national structure with state affiliates, but independent of the government. They would be required to maintain the type of financial reserves that private companies are required to keep in case of unexpectedly high claims.

"I think there will be a competitor to private insurers," Sebelius said. "That's really the essential part, is you don't turn over the whole new marketplace to private insurance companies and trust them to do the right thing."

Obama's spokesman refused to say a public option was a make-or-break choice for the administration.

"What I am saying is the bottom line for this for the president is, what we have to have is choice and competition

in the insurance market," White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said.

A day before, Obama appeared to hedge his bets.

"All I'm saying is, though, that the public option, whether we have it or we don't have it, is not the entirety of health care reform," Obama said at a town hall meeting in Grand Junction, Colo. "This is just one sliver of it, one aspect of it."

It's hardly the same rhetoric Obama employed during a constant, personal campaign for legislation.

"I am pleased by the progress we're making on health care reform and still believe, as I've said before, that one of the best ways to bring down costs, provide more choices and assure quality is a public option that will force the insurance companies to compete and keep them honest," Obama said in July.

Lawmakers have discussed the co-op model for months although the Democratic leadership and the White House have said they prefer a government-run option.

Conrad, chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, called the argument for a government-run public plan little more than a "wasted effort." He added there are enough votes in the Senate for a cooperative plan.

"It's not government-run and government-controlled," he said. "It's membership-run and membership-controlled. But it does provide a nonprofit competitor for the for-profit insurance companies, and

*Associated Press* that's why it has appeal on both sides."

Sen. Richard Shelby, an Alabama Republican, said Obama's team is making a political calculation and embracing the co-op alternative as "a step away from the government takeover of the health care system" that the Republicans have pummeled.

"I don't know if it will do everything people want, but we ought to look at it. I think it's a far cry from the original proposals," he said.

Republicans say a public option would have unfair advantages that would drive private insurers out of business. Critics say co-ops would not be genuine public options for health insurance. But Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, a liberal Texas Democrat, said it would be difficult to pass any legislation through the Democratic-controlled Congress without the promised public plan.

"We'll have the same number of people uninsured," she said. "If the insurance companies wanted to insure these people now, they'd be insured."

Republican Rep. Tom Price said the Democrats' option would force individuals from their private plans to a government-run plan as some employers may choose not to provide health insurance.

"Tens of millions of individuals would be moved from their personal, private insurance to the government-run program. We simply don't think that's acceptable," he said. □

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Continued from Page B1

Ana, a tropical storm that had also been churning in the Atlantic, had weakened to a depression.

Skies clouded and bands of intermittent heavy rain moved on shore ahead of the storm, but the Panhandle was largely calm.

Condominiums on Pensacola Beach warned residents to bring balcony furniture indoors with winds anticipated to strengthen throughout the evening. A trickle of cars and SUVs with surfboards on top headed east along the Panhandle as surfers hoped to catch waves whipped up by Claudette.

On Pensacola Beach, the National Park Service closed low-lying roads that connect the restaurants and hotels to the undeveloped National Seashore and historic Fort Pickens Fort. The Park Service said campers would be ordered to leave the area because of the likelihood of the road flooding.

Rainfall of 3 to 6 inches was expected, with isolated areas getting up to 10 inches along the Panhandle, the Big Bend region, central and southern Alabama and extreme southwestern Georgia, forecasters said.

"We may see some heavy rains as a result, but we don't expect any high winds or coastal flooding," said John Dosh, manager of Emergency Management. "This event is a good example of how quickly a tropical storm can develop. We won't always have a lot of warning. This is why citizens need to be prepared throughout hurricane season."

In Panama City, the Bay County Emergency Operations Center opened a shelter at a local high school for residents of low-lying areas and people with special needs.

A tropical storm warning covers most of the Panhandle, from the Alabama state line to the Suwannee River more than 300 miles to the east.

The storm tide is expected to produce maximum water levels of 3 to 5 feet above ground level along portions of the Panhandle.

Alexander Hanrahan, a tourist from London, watched Claudette roll in on Pensacola. He said his family feared the storm after watching the television in their beach-front condominium.

"We were actually deliberating whether to get out on the road, but when we got out it was nothing. My mom was nervous because she's not used to driving here anyway," Hanrahan said.

Pensacola Beach is still recovering from Hurricane Ivan, which devastated the western Florida Panhandle and parts of Alabama in 2004.

At 8 p.m. EDT, Claudette was about 55 miles west of Apalachicola and moving northwest near 12 mph. Its center was expected to move onshore along the northern Gulf Coast by Monday.

Meanwhile, Ana's winds had diminished to 35 mph and was expected to make landfall at the Leeward Islands early Monday. Watches were posted for Puerto Rico, the U.S. and British Virgin Islands, Antigua, St. Maarten and several other islands in the area. Ana was forecast to bring 2 to 4 inches of rain.

Tropical Storm Bill, however, was intensifying far from land in the open Atlantic, and could become a hurricane late Sunday or on Monday.

In the Pacific, Hurricane Guillermo had winds that



had dropped to 85 mph, and it was expected to lose steam in the next day. Guillermo was moving west at 14 mph, about 995 miles east of Hilo, Hawaii, and didn't threaten any land. Despite the storms, a warmer weather pattern called El Nino over the Pacific Ocean is generally expected to dampen the formation of tropical storms in the Caribbean and Atlantic this year, said Brian

Daly, a meteorologist with the national weather service in Mobile, Alabama.

"It's pretty frequent that an El Nino year would be somewhat delayed with fewer storms," Daly said.

Forecasters revised their Atlantic hurricane season predictions after the first two months of the season passed without any named storms developing. □

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# Gun law complaints trail Obama during park tours



President Barack Obama his wife Michelle Obama, and their daughters Malia Obama, 11, and Sasha Obama, 8, tour the Old Faithful geyser in Yellowstone National Park, Wy.. Saturday, Aug. 15, 2009.

Associated Press

LIZ SIDOTI

Associated Press Writer

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyoming (AP) — Family in tow for a tour of national treasures far from Washington, President Barack Obama is trailed by criticism from gun opponents and parks advocates for allowing firearms into such majestic places as Yellowstone.

“There is still time for Congress and the president to take steps to keep loaded firearms away from the valleys of Yellowstone, the cliffs of Yosemite, and the Statue of Liberty — but they need to act quickly,” said Paul Helmke, president of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.

The group is named after former White House press secretary Jim Brady, who became an ardent gun control advocate after being badly wounded in a 1981

assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan by a gunman with a psychiatric history.

A bill that Obama signed in May permits licensed gun owners to bring firearms into national parks and wildlife refuges as long as state law allows it. The new law, which takes effect in February, will replace rules from the Reagan administration that generally require that guns in national parks be locked or stored in a vehicle’s glove compartment or trunk.

“If they wanted to fight that, they could have,” said Jonathan Dorn, editorial director of National Park Trips.com and editor-in-chief of Backpacker magazine. “That one just felt like a very political decision that was maybe more about politics than about maybe paying attention to the preferences of the vast majority of people who are frequent park users.”

Still, Dorn called the law “one hiccup” in an otherwise supportive parks agenda so far by the Obama administration.

The Democratic-controlled Congress passed the less restrictive measure with bipartisan support after Sen. Tom Coburn, an Oklahoma Republican, inserted it into Obama-backed legislation imposing new restrictions on credit card companies. Democratic leaders decided not to challenge Coburn, and Obama signed the gun measure without comment.

Politically, the move thrilled gun-rights advocates such as the politically influential National Rifle Association and outdoorsmen. They generally lean conservative, which may help Obama’s soft standing with centrists and independents. But it certainly didn’t set well with some of Obama’s core Democratic constituencies, environmentalists and gun-control backers.

The Obama family — the president, the first lady and daughters Malia and Sasha, and other relatives — had a busy sightseeing weekend planned: visiting Yellowstone National Park on Saturday and touring Grand Canyon National Park on Sunday.

“Oh, that’s pretty good. Cool! Look at that. That’s a geyser there,” a casually dressed Obama said as he and his family watched Old Faithful erupt in Yellowstone after they strolled up a path with park rangers.

Earlier, his entourage walked

wooden boardwalks and bridges in the steamy Black Sand Basin, where hot springs and small geysers dot the picturesque landscape.

Their stops come during one of three summer weekends when the administration waived entrance fees at 147 national parks and monuments to spur tourism and boost local economies.

Less than a year in office, Obama doesn’t have much of a record when it comes to the national park system. Nonetheless, parks advocates say the administration has indicated it wants to spend more on parks and expand the parks system.

At this point, “it’s more rhetoric than it is decisions” but “we believe there’s a pretty bold and ambitious agenda brewing for national parks in this administration,” said Ron Tipton, the National Parks Conservation Association’s senior vice president of policy. “We’re seeing the interest right out of the box, and we’re seeing it exemplified by a president who takes his family to a national park in his first year in office. That’s very unusual.”

Dorn, likewise, applauded Obama for “making a pretty significant statement this early in his administration at a time when he’s got some pretty heavy things on his shoulders.”

From the outset of his presidency, Obama signaled his would be an administration sympathetic to the parks. He signed legislation that set

aside more than 2 million acres (800,000 hectares) in nine states as protected wilderness. That was one of the largest expansions of wilderness protection in a quarter-century. Supporters said the law would strengthen the national parks system; opponents called it a “land grab.”

Since then, the administration has taken several other steps that have encouraged parks advocates:

—Proposed cutting the number of snowmobiles allowed daily into Yellowstone in the winter to 318 and requiring guided tours. It proposed a similar policy at other national parks. Wyoming has asked a federal judge to force Yellowstone to allow up to 740 snowmobiles a day.

—Halted the filing of new mining claims on nearly 1 million acres (400,000 hectares) of U.S. Forest Service land near the Grand Canyon for two years while the administration studies whether uranium mining there should be permanently prohibited. It also has pledged to overhaul a 137-year-old hardrock mining law that favors the mining industry.

—Devoted \$750 million in economic stimulus money to address a maintenance backlog in parks and increased the operations budget request to Congress for parks by \$100 million.

—Picked Jon Jarvis, a biologist and 30-year-veteran who oversees the national parks across the West, to head the National Parks Service



# Milwaukee mayor wounded after being attacked with pipe

DINESH RAMDE

Associated Press Writer

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett was hospitalized with head and hand injuries on Sunday after he tried to assist a woman crying for help and was attacked by a man with a

metal pipe near the Wisconsin State Fair, police said.

Barrett was in stable condition at a local hospital and was alert and talking when he arrived there on Saturday night, Milwaukee police said. The mayor had gone to the Wisconsin State Fair on

Saturday with his children and niece. As Barrett walked to his car, he heard a woman screaming for someone to call the police emergency dispatcher, police said.

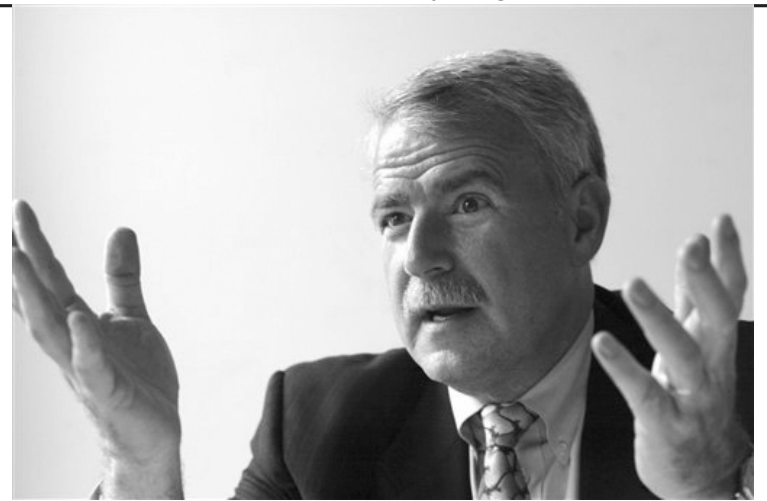
“The mayor stopped and said something like, ‘Let’s all cool down here, I’m going to call 911,’” the mayor’s spokesman Patrick Curley said. “He said it one or two times according to him. When he took out his phone, that’s when the suspect attacked him.”

The suspect hit him in the head and torso with a metal pipe. Barrett apparently fought back, fracturing his hand when he punched the suspect.

“I think he hit the guy,” Curley said. “I don’t know where, but it was hard enough, whatever he hit, to fracture his hand.”

The suspect then fled the scene. Authorities said they were seeking a person who has a criminal arrest record, police said. The woman was uninjured.

The mayor, who did not ask for security to accompany him



**FILE - This April 19, 2004 file photo shows Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett in Milwaukee. Barrett was in the hospital on Sunday, Aug. 16, 2009 after he was attacked by a person using a metal pipe as the mayor and his family left the Wisconsin State Fair.**

*Associated Press*

## WILDFIRE

*Continued from Page B1*

More crews were arriving to fight the flames, totaling 2,165 firefighters on Sunday.

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said Santa Cruz’s Lockheed Fire was among 11 burning in the state. A state of emergency was declared in the county, while other blazes forced evacuations and knocked out power in other parts of the state.

Red Cross volunteers said only a handful of evacuees have been sleeping at the Santa Cruz shelter because most have homeowners’ insurance that pays for hotel stays, but about 100 people have showed up each morning for briefings from state fire officials.

Chris Sokoloff, who has spent three nights at the evacuation center, said residents appeared calmer at Sunday’s briefing after they heard the fire was half contained. But many were still anxious, he said. “Who doesn’t jump to the worst case scenario?” he asked. “There’s a nervous optimism.”

A fire in Yuba County, north of Sacramento, had burned more than 3 square miles after jumping the Yuba River and moving away from the Sierra Nevada foothills community of Dobbins, which had been threatened. About 120 residents who had left their homes were able to return, Berlant said.

“It’s being fanned by the wind,” he said.

That fire, which was ignited by burning feathers from a red-tailed hawk that flew into a power line, was more than 15 percent contained, but about 600 homes were still threatened Sunday. Voluntary evacuations remain in effect for parts of the community.

The Colgate Powerhouse — the oldest powerhouse in the state — and two others were powered down, along with four major power lines. Together, they produce 300 Megawatts of power for the area.

About 1,385 fire personnel are in the area fighting that blaze, though the steep, rough terrain made their work difficult.

In Alameda County more than 330 firefighters were gaining ground on a grass fire that burned about 23 square miles near Tracy, said Alameda County Fire department spokeswoman Aisha Knowles.

The Corral Fire was 85 percent contained.

“It’s dying down, but firefighters remain vigilant, reinforcing containment lines,” said Knowles, adding that fire officials expected full containment by Sunday night.

Meanwhile, winds were helping crews beat back a week-old wildfire in northern Santa Barbara County that investigators say was started by a camp fire used by marijuana growers.

U.S. Forest Service spokesman Joe Pasinato said the fire was 60 percent contained Sunday morning. The blaze has burned nearly 134 square miles of timber and brush in and around the Los Padres National Forest about 20 miles east of Santa Maria.

Pasinato says residents are being let back into homes in the Tepusquet Canyon area Sunday. An unknown number of homes and ranches remain under evacuation orders on the fire’s eastern edge. □

to the fair because he wasn’t on official duty, underwent successful surgery Sunday on his fractured right hand and also had cuts on his head and lip stitched up, Curley said. “He’s in stable condition and all his vitals are good,” Curley said. “I saw him an hour ago and we had a very nice conversation.”

He will likely remain in the hospital through Monday, Curley said, adding that he wasn’t aware of any pending surgical procedures.

Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle said he also visited Barrett at the hospital on Sunday morning and found him in “good spirits

and looking good considering what happened.”

“The mayor’s heroic actions clearly saved a woman and others from harm,” Doyle said in a statement.

Barrett was already planning to take this week off for a family vacation, Curley said. The mayor’s only regret about the incident is that his family was there to witness what happened, Curley said.

“He said it was hard because his kids and niece were there at the time of incident,” Curley said. “He knew he had to (intervene). It was the right thing to do.” □



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**MYANMAR - U.S.**

**Continued from Page B1**

Sen. Jim Webb of Virginia, who secured John Yettaw's freedom, said he believes years of sanctions have failed to move the Southeast Asian country toward democratic reforms or talks with detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Webb said he would discuss his conclusions and recommendations with Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and others on his return to Washington. He declined to speculate on what the Obama administration — which is reviewing its policy toward Myanmar — would do. Webb can rally support for changes to U.S. policy in Asia as chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's East Asia and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee.

Webb flew with Yettaw to Bangkok on Sunday afternoon. Yettaw had been held at Insein Prison in Myanmar's biggest city Yangon since his arrest in early May.

The 53-year-old American was apprehended as he swam away from Suu Kyi's lakeside residence, where he had sheltered for two days after sneaking in uninvited. He was convicted last week of breaking the terms of Suu Kyi's house arrest and related charges, and sentenced to seven years in prison with hard labor.

Suu Kyi, who has been detained for 14 of the last 20 years, was herself sentenced to three years in prison with hard labor for violating her house arrest conditions through Yettaw's visit, although that was reduced to 18 months under house arrest by order of junta chief, Senior Gen. Than Shwe. Observers widely believe Yettaw's intrusion into Suu Kyi's home gave the junta a legal pretext to keep the Nobel laureate incarcerated through next year's general election. Yettaw testified that he had a vision that Suu Kyi was at risk from assassins, and visited her to warn her.

A pale and haggard-looking

Yettaw had to be assisted as he walked off the small plane on arrival in Bangkok. He smiled and flashed 'I love you' in sign language to waiting reporters. He did not respond to questions.

In the United States, Yettaw's family said he has been hospitalized in Bangkok.

His ex-wife, Yvonne, said she had spoken to his current wife, Betty Yettaw, of Camdenton, Missouri, who said she spoke with her husband in Bangkok.

"He told her he was not treated as well as everyone there and in the press had been saying," Yvonne Yettaw, of Palm Springs, California, said.

She said Betty told her they were just running tests in the Bangkok hospital, but did not know what for. "But he is not in good health," Yvonne Yettaw said.

Yvonne Yettaw also said the family has to pay for his ticket home and there have been some complications trying to schedule a flight, so it is unclear when he will be returning to the U.S.

Myanmar state television said Sunday night that Yettaw, from Falcon, Missouri, was freed on humanitarian grounds because of his health. He reportedly suffers from diabetes, epilepsy and asthma and was hospitalized for a week during the trial after suffering seizures.

The Democrat lawmaker said at a press conference in Bangkok that Yettaw's release "was a gesture from the government of Myanmar that we should be grateful for and hopefully build upon."

He said years of Western sanctions had denied Myanmar's people "the kind of access to the outside world that is essential to their economic and political growth."

Washington has been a leader in isolating the military regime, imposing political and economic sanctions because of its poor human rights record and failure to turn over power to Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party after it won a landslide victory in 1990 elections.

Clinton, on a trip through Asia in February, said neither tough U.S. sanctions nor engagement by neighbors had persuaded the junta to embrace democracy or release Suu Kyi. The junta has been able to shrug off the sanctions in large part because of support from China.

David Steinberg, a Myanmar specialist at Georgetown University in Washington, described Webb's visit as a "very important" first step.

"Of course, to see a change in U.S. policy, the junta would have to make significant reforms," he said, adding that this would happen immediately.

He said Washington's reaching-out to the junta followed approaches by the Obama administration to several states previously considered pariahs, such as North Korea and Iran. He said he was one of several international affairs experts consulted by Obama's team to present alternative views.

During last year's presidential campaign, Obama said he would be willing to talk to anybody without

preconditions, referring to nations with whom the Bush administration had refused to hold discussions. Bush ceased previous U.S. efforts to engage Pyongyang to win its agreement to stop developing nuclear weapons, and likewise gave Tehran, also seeking nuclear strike capacity, the cold shoulder.

Obama has sought to engage Tehran after a nearly three-decade estrangement, declaring a willingness to talk with its theocratic regime. He has also allowed former President Bill Clinton to reopen lines of communications to North Korea with a high profile visit to obtain the release of two American journalists jailed for illegally entering the country. Critics of Myanmar's military regime expressed disappointment at the latest developments.

Aung Din of the U.S. Campaign for Burma, a Washington-based pro-democracy group, said Yettaw's release was a gift to Webb from Than Shwe for opposing sanctions, and promoting engagement and increased U.S. business activities there.

"This will surely make a negative impression among the people of Burma," he wrote in an e-mail "They will think that Americans are easy to satisfy with the dictators when they get their citizens back."

Webb was allowed a rare meeting with Suu Kyi, and said he had asked the junta to release her — a long-standing demand of the United States and much of the international community. □

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# Iran defies condemnation, expands opposition trial

NASSER KARIMI

Associated Press Writer

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran expanded a mass trial of opposition supporters on Sunday with the addition of 25 defendants — including a Jewish teenager — in defiance of international condemnation, as France said Iran agreed to release a French woman held on spying charges from prison.

The defendants are among more than 100 people charged with plotting a “soft revolution” against the Islamic theocracy during the postelection protests. The mass trial is part of an attempt to put an end to the protests by those who say Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s June 12 re-election was the result of fraud.

In apparent attempt to fend off criticism and move ahead with his second term, Ahmadinejad named three women who, if confirmed, would be Iran’s first female Cabinet ministers since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

The trial, now in its third session, has included a number of televised confessions and has drawn international condemnation from human rights groups that allege the confessions are coerced. The U.S. last week labeled the event a “show trial.”

The trial and official acknowledgments that some detainees have been abused in prison have only added to anger among both opposition supporters and some conservatives upset with the treatment of protesters.

The additional defendants brought the total number being tried to 135.

The defendants include a number of high-ranking politicians linked to the country’s pro-reform movement as well as employees from the British and French embassies and an Iranian-Canadian reporter for Newsweek magazine.

A 24-year-old French academic, Clotilde Reiss, who had appeared during one of the previous court sessions, was

freed Sunday from an Iranian prison, the French president’s office said late Sunday.

She was arrested July 1 for attending a postelection demonstration. During her court appearance, Reiss apologized for attending the demonstration but said she did so because she was curious. The French Foreign Minister has said the statement was “worked on,” suggesting it was coerced.

The French president’s office said it was asking for all charges to be dropped against Reiss and that she’ll be residing at the French Embassy in Tehran until she can return home.

France is also asking for all charges to be dropped against another of its citizens, Nazak Afshar, who has dual French-Iranian citizenship and worked at the French Embassy. She appeared during a previous court session before being released from prison. She’s now residing at the French Embassy in Tehran.

French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner later said on the iTele TV station that bail was paid for Reiss but that the sum was “not enormous.” While she stays at the embassy, Reiss will prepare her defense “to make her innocence known,” Kouchner said in a statement. He also reiterated the charges against her and the French-Iranian embassy employee, Nazak Afshar, were “unfounded.”

At Sunday’s hearing, officials showed a film of attacks on public property, cars and a mosque by protesters, and the prosecutor accused the defendants of plotting the postelection turmoil years in advance.

One of the new defendants was Yaghoghil Shaolian, 19, a member of Iran’s Jewish community, which numbers about 25,000 people. He was quoted by the semiofficial Fars news agency as saying that he was not an activist but that he got caught up in the moment and threw stones at a Tehran bank during a protest.

Iran’s only Jewish

parliamentarian, Siamak Mereh Sedq, confirmed the detention of Shaolian and his Jewish identity to The Associated Press. He said the detention was not connected to his religion and that Shaolian is innocent.

Ahmadinejad’s decision to appoint three women to his Cabinet appeared to be an attempt to mollify the opposition and some of his conservative supporters while currying favor with women.

Marzieh Vahid Dastgerdi, a 50-year-old gynecologist, will become health minister and Fatemeh Ajorlu, a 43-year-old lawmaker, will be minister of welfare and social security, Ahmadinejad said. He said he’ll nominate at least one more woman to the Cabinet, but did not give a name.

Ahmadinejad’s chances of using the nominations to win over the opposition seems slim as the two women he named are considered fellow hard-liners.

Women took part in large numbers in the street protests that followed the disputed election. Ahmadinejad’s attempts as president to enforce a strict dress code on women and the jailing of many female activists has won him few favors with women.

Female politicians are not unheard of in Iran. Although they are barred from the presidency and religious posts, many Iranian women are in parliament and other political offices. Ahmadinejad currently has a female vice president.

But Iran has not had a female Cabinet minister since the 1979 revolution that brought the cleric-led regime to power. The last female minister, Farrokhroo Parsay, was executed on charges of corruption after the revolution.

Ahmadinejad is slated to present his new Cabinet to parliament on Wednesday. Every minister has to be approved by parliament — an uncertain prospect given that some lawmakers have



In this photo released by the Iranian Labor News Agency (ILNA), judge Abolqasem Salavati, bottom left, watches an image showing protesters during Iran’s post-election turmoil, at the Revolutionary Court in Tehran, Iran, Sunday, Aug. 16, 2009.

Associated Press

criticized Ahmadinejad for not consulting with them prior to making his nominations.

Ahmadinejad also named cleric Haidar Moslehi as the new intelligence minister to replace Gholam Hossein Mohseni Ejeji, who lost his job in July in an apparent dispute over the handling of the clampdown on the unrest.

The Iranian president on Sunday also appeared to criticize President Barack Obama in a thinly veiled reference. “The excellency

who talks about change made a big mistake when he openly interfered in Iran’s domestic issues,” Ahmadinejad told a group of clerics Sunday, according to the semiofficial Mehr news agency.

Iran has tried to taint the unrest by asserting that it is a product of international meddling rather than internal anger.

Opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi, who claims he was the true election winner, is also consolidating his political forces. □

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# U.S. military denies role in Honduras coup flight



Honduras' ousted President Manuel Zelaya, greets supporters during a press conference at a shelter in Ocotal, Nicaragua, near the border with Honduras, Wednesday, July 29, 2009. Zelaya has set up his government-in-exile near the Honduran border, to launch his return to power after being ousted in a coup on June 28.

**FREDDY CUEVAS**

**Associated Press Writer**

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — The U.S. military said Sunday its troops in Honduras did not know of and played no role in a flight that took ousted President Manuel Zelaya to exile during a military coup.

Zelaya says the Honduran

*Associated Press*

military plane that flew him to Costa Rica on June 28 stopped to refuel at Soto Cano, a Honduran air base that is home to 600 U.S. soldiers, sailors and airmen engaged in counter-narcotics operations and other missions in Central America.

U.S. forces at Soto Cano "were not involved in the

flight that carried President Zelaya to Costa Rica on June 28," Southern Command spokesman Robert Appin said in an e-mail to The Associated Press. The American troops "had no knowledge or part in the decisions made for the plane to land, refuel and take off."

Appin said the U.S. troops at Soto Cano have stopped conducting exercises with the Honduran military since the coup.

"The U.S. military recognizes that the situation must be resolved by Hondurans and their democratic institutions in accordance with the rule of law," he said.

The administration of President Barack Obama has cut off millions of dollars in military and development aid to Honduras in an effort to pressure for Zelaya's reinstatement. It has stopped short of imposing trade sanctions that could cripple the Honduran economy, which is highly dependent on exports to the United States.

Zelaya, a wealthy rancher who aligned himself with

leftist Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez during his presidency, has increasingly voiced frustration with Washington for failing to impose tougher penalties.

During a visit to Brazil last week, Zelaya spoke of the stop at Soto Cano, also known as Palmerola, and voiced suspicions of U.S. complicity in the coup — although he stressed that he did not believe the highest levels of the Obama administration were involved.

"The Obama administration has been firm in condemning the coup and demanding my restitution. I do not see reasons to believe that the Obama administration has two faces," Zelaya said.

"Now, there are some elements of the CIA that could have been involved. When they took me by plane to Costa Rica, it was a short flight but the plane made a stop at the Palmerola air base to refuel," he added. "Palmerola is a base administered by Honduran and U.S. troops. If it was a short flight, some 40 minutes, why did they have to refuel at

Palmerola base?

Patricia Valle, who served as Zelaya's deputy foreign minister, reiterated those suspicions Saturday, although she gave no evidence that American personnel at the base interacted with the Honduran military officials on the plane or that they even knew Zelaya was there. She said Zelaya stayed on the plane during the stop.

"Zelaya was taken to Palmerola," Valle told the AP. "The United States was involved in the coup against Zelaya."

In Washington, State Department spokesman Fred Lash said in response to the claim that "the Soto Cano Airbase in Honduras is a Honduran military base under the control of the Honduran military authorities. The United States was not informed in advance of the use of the Soto Cano Airbase as a refueling stop for the aircraft that transported President Zelaya into exile." Palmerola was used by the United States during the Central American civil wars of the 1980s.

The government of interim President Roberto Micheletti is trying to withstand international pressure to restore Zelaya before scheduled Nov. 29 presidential elections. It insists Zelaya was legally removed from office after violating court orders to call off a referendum asking voters whether they would support rewriting the constitution.

Micheletti voiced his own anger over Washington's stance on the coup, saying he hoped that U.S. Ambassador Hugo Llorens would not return to Honduras from a trip abroad. The U.S. Embassy has said Llorens left Honduras temporarily for personal reasons and has not been withdrawn from his post. "I understand he is on vacation, so I hope he doesn't come back," Micheletti said Saturday during a meeting with more than 3,000 army reservists in the northern city of San Pedro Sula. □

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# Mexico replaces customs staff, revamps borders

ALEXANDRA OLSON

Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico has replaced all 700 of its customs inspectors with agents newly trained to detect contraband, from guns and drugs to TVs and other big-ticket appliances smuggled to avoid import duties.

The shake-up — part of a broader effort to root out corruption and improve vigilance at Mexican ports with new technology — doubled the size of Mexico's customs inspection force.

The inspectors at all 49 of Mexico's customs points were replaced with 1,400 better-educated agents who have undergone background checks and months of training, Tax Administration Service spokesman Pedro Canabal said Sunday.

He said the inspectors were not fired. Instead, government did not rehire them when their contracts expired, Canabal

said.

The main focus of the overhaul is to combat tax evasion, although Mexico is also trying to seize more guns smuggled in from the United States and elsewhere that end up in the hands of ruthless drug gangs. Mexican cartels are responsible for the majority of cocaine smuggled from South America to the United States. Canabal said the government hopes to improve its tax collection with the new system, noting that more than 40 percent of Mexico's value-added tax is collected at customs. However, he said the main benefit will be stopping the flood of pirated and cheap goods that he said undermine Mexican industries.

Custom inspectors turned over their weapons to soldiers before leaving their posts at airports and border crossings across the country Saturday night. Enrique Torres, a spokesman for the military and

federal police in the northern city of Ciudad Juarez, said soldiers were at the border crossing with El Paso, Texas, to help avoid violence during the transition.

The new agents, more than 70 percent of whom are university educated, were chosen in a "strict selection process that included psychological and toxicological checks, as well as the necessary investigations to ensure they have no criminal record," according to a Tax Administration statement.

Canabal said the 700 who were replaced would not be banned from reapplying for their jobs, but would have to meet the new, stricter requirements. He said less than 10 percent of the ousted staffers have university degrees.

The new agents were trained in legal aspects of foreign trade and taught to use new equipment installed at border crossings, including X-ray and gamma ray machines to



Soldiers patrol in Piedras Negras, northern Mexico, Sunday, Aug. 16, 2009. The Mexican government has deployed soldiers to patrol a city in the northern state of Coahuila after assailants in pickups opened fire on a police chief as he headed home late Saturday. Although he was not hurt, three of the police officers guarding him died.

Associated Press

scan for hidden contraband. More dogs trained to sniff out drugs and other banned goods are also being added.

"We need more than just a body with a weapon," Canabal said.

Mexico has been checking only 10 percent of the 230,000 vehicles that cross the border each day, according to the

federal Attorney General's Office.

Now, with new technology, agents will weigh and photograph every car and truck that crosses the border and run license plate numbers through a database of suspicious vehicles in the hopes of catching more hidden contraband. □




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## SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY

## Yang topples Tiger, win PGA Championship

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

CHASKA, Minnesota (AP) — South Korea's Y.E. Yang toppled Tiger Woods and became the first Asian-born man to win a major with a stunning performance Sunday in the PGA Championship, memorable as much for his clutch shots as the player he beat. In a year of spoilers at the majors, Yang's was the most surprising of all.

Woods was 14-0 when he went into the final round of a major atop the leaderboard. He had not lost any tournament around the world in nine years when leading by two shots.

None of that mattered to Yang, a 37-year-old Korean who hit the shots everyone expected from Woods. Leading by one on the final hole, Yang slayed golf's giant with a hybrid 3-iron that cleared the bunker and settled 12 feet from the cup.

Yang made the birdie putt and shouted with joy as he pumped his fist. That gave him a 2-under 70, and a three-shot victory when Woods missed yet another short par putt and shot 75.

"I tried to master the art of controlling my emotions



Y.E. Yang, of South Korea, holds up the Wanamaker Trophy after winning the 91st PGA Championship at the Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, Minn., Sunday, Aug. 16, 2009.

Associated Press

throughout the small wins I had in my career," Yang said through his agent, Michael Yim. "I think it turned out quite well today."

Yang finished at 8-under 280 and won \$1.35 million, along

with a five-year exemption on the PGA Tour and the majors. That was important for a guy who had to go back to PGA Tour qualifying last December. The last player to go from Q-school to PGA champion was

John Daly in 1991.

One more bonus: His victory put him on the International team for the Presidents Cup in October in San Francisco.

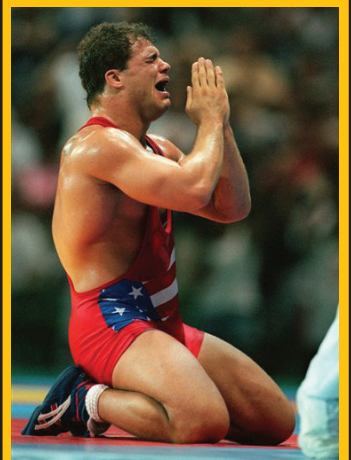
His victory is massive for Asia, the fastest-growing market in golf. Perhaps even more significant is the way he stood up to Woods, the world's No. 1 player whose heritage is half-Asian through his Thai-born mother.

Yang and K.J. Choi are the only PGA Tour players who learned golf in South Korea before coming to America. South Koreans have had far more success on the LPGA Tour, with seven players combining to win 11 majors. His victory came four days after golf was recommended to become part of the Olympics in 2016.

For Woods, it was the second time he has finished runner-up in the PGA Championship at Hazeltine, both times to a surprise winner. Seven years ago, he birdied the last four holes and came up one short of Rich Beem.

This time, Woods made one mistake after another over the last four holes, mostly with his putter.

Continued on Page B12



### Pro wrestler Angle charged with HGH possession

FILE - In this July 31, 1996 file photo, Kurt Angle of the United States reacts to his gold medal win in the 100 kg class of freestyle wrestling at the Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta. Police say pro wrestler and Olympic gold medalist Kurt Angle has been arrested for possessing a human growth hormone in suburban Pittsburgh. Police say they arrested Angle just before 8 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 15, 2009 in a strip mall parking lot in Robinson Township. His girlfriend told police she had obtained an order of protection against him after the two fought Friday night. □

## Bolt wins 100 in world record time of 9.58 seconds



Jamaica's Usain Bolt celebrates setting a new Men's 100m World Record at the World Athletics Championships in Berlin on Sunday, Aug. 16, 2009.

Associated Press

RAF CASERT

AP Sports Writer

BERLIN (AP) — Looking around and seeing no one close in the biggest race of the year, Usain Bolt proved again he races in a world all his own.

The Olympic champion won a huge matchup against Tyson Gay on Sunday at the world championships, beating his chest after he crossed the line and watched the clock stop at 9.58 seconds.

Looking at the clock beyond the finish line, Bolt even beat time itself.

Running full-out in ideal conditions and against the toughest competition possible for the first time in his 22 years, Bolt blew away his own world record by a massive .11 seconds and made Gay seem slow despite setting a U.S. record of 9.71 seconds, the third fastest time in history. "I got a pretty good start," Bolt said. "I

was there at 20 meters and that was it."

It was the biggest increase in the record since electronic time was introduced in 1968. After Jim Hines ran 9.95 at 1968 Mexico City Olympics, it took 28 years to shave another .11 seconds, as Donovan Bailey clocked 9.84 in 1996.

Bolt did the same in 12 months.

Exactly one year ago at the Beijing Games, Bolt was breezing after 70 meters and set a record of 9.69. But on the deep indigo blue track of the Olympic Stadium in Berlin, Gay pushed him and his own sore groin as far as he could. To no avail.

Gay stayed with him over the first part but once Bolt unfurled that huge stride of his, there was no contest. Asafa Powell of Jamaica took bronze in 9.84.

"Awesome," Powell said after the two Jamaicans danced a jig to celebrate. □



# Vickers outlasts Johnson in fuel duel at Michigan

**CHRIS JENKINS**

**AP Sports Writer**

BROOKLYN, Michigan (AP)

— Brian Vickers outlasted Jimmie Johnson in yet another fuel-mileage duel at Michigan International Speedway,

taking the lead with two laps to go after Johnson ran out of gas and holding on for his first Sprint Cup victory of the season Sunday.

It was the second time in two races at Michigan this season that Johnson's crew gambled on gas and lost. Johnson also was in the lead when he ran out of fuel back in June, handing a win to Mark Martin.

Jeff Gordon finished second, followed by Dale Earnhardt Jr., Carl Edwards and Sam Hornish Jr. Series points leader Tony Stewart, who clinched his spot in the chase by starting Sunday's race, finished 17th.

Crew chief Ryan Pemberton pleaded with Vickers to be gentle with the throttle and save gas in the closing laps — and the driver delivered.

"We've went through this several times," said Vickers, also the October 2006 winner at Talladega. "He's asked me to give him two (laps) and I give him five. So he said, 'Go get it. Just do what you did here last time.' He made the call and it was a great call."

With three races left before the cutoff for NASCAR's season-ending championship chase, the win provided a significant boost to Vickers' chances of qualifying. Vickers jumped one spot in the standings to 13th, and is only 12 points behind Martin for the 12th and final chase qualifying spot. Martin apparently ran out of gas on the final lap and finished 31st.

It was the continuation of a wild weekend for Vickers, who won the pole on Friday and

then spent Saturday sparring with Kyle Busch.

Vickers and Busch both are trying to climb into the top 12 in Sprint Cup points to qualify for the chase, and their rivalry ratcheted up during Saturday's Nationwide race when they got caught racing for the lead on the final lap and both were passed for the win by Brad Keselowski.

They exchanged words afterward, but the rivalry didn't appear to spill over into Sunday's race.

Vickers certainly got the best of Busch on Sunday, watching his rival come home 23rd. Busch slipped two spots to 15th in the standings.

And as if that wasn't enough drama, Vickers still isn't sure if he's returning to drive for his team next season.

Johnson had never won at Michigan coming into Saturday despite leading laps in each of his five previous races there. That includes the whopping 146 laps Johnson led at Michigan at June, only to run out of gas in the closing laps and hand a victory to Martin.

"I'm certainly frustrated," Johnson said in a television interview. "We've won one race on fuel mileage ever. It's just what we're not good at. I think it's a little too risky for us to even try it. We got lucky once in Phoenix. Outside of that we always come up short." Earnhardt was one driver who didn't try to save gas, and it almost worked.

Johnson, Vickers and several other contenders made pit stops with 51 laps to go, seemingly just outside the window they'd need to make it to the end.

Earnhardt then pitted with 42 laps to go, while other leaders such as Johnson, Vickers, Matt Kenseth and Kevin Harvick

did not. The No. 88 team's strategy call turned out to be the right one, as Earnhardt could drive all-out to go for the win while others had to drive conservatively in an attempt to save gas.

Earnhardt charged from sixth to third in the final 20 laps, but couldn't quite catch the leaders. Still, it was his best finish since a second in Talladega in April.

"I don't want to get too excited," Earnhardt said. "We want to be up front every week."

It was a tough day for chase contender Kurt Busch, who tangled with David Ragan with 80 laps to go and had to drive his banged-up car back to the garage area for repairs. Busch finished 36th and slipped two spots in the standings but




**Brian Vickers crosses the finish line to win the NASCAR Carfax 400 Sprint Cup Series auto race at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, Mich., Sunday, Aug. 16, 2009.**


*Associated Press*

remains a comfortable sixth. Juan Pablo Montoya, who came into Sunday's race seventh in the standings, made a nice save to keep his

car from wrecking after a tire went flat with 59 laps to go. But the extra pit stop cost him time on the track and he finished 19th. □

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## PGA

### Continued from Page B10

“I did everything I needed to do, except for getting the ball in the hole,” Woods said. “Just didn’t make the putts when I needed to make them.”

Yang was No. 110 in the world, his only victory on the PGA Tour coming in March at the Honda Classic, on a course across the street from headquarters of the PGA of America. He was best known for holding off Woods at the HSBC Champions in China three years ago.

This stage was far bigger.

**Tiger Woods reacts to a missed birdie putt on the 13th green during the final round of the 91st PGA Championship at the Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, Minn., Sunday, Aug. 16, 2009.**

Associated Press

Yang was even better. He took the lead for the first time all week by chipping in for eagle from about 20 yards short of the 14th green. And when it looked as though nerves were getting the best of him on a three-putt bogey at the 17th, he delivered his two most important shots. Yang still had enough strength left to hoist his golf bag over his head, and later the 44-pound Wanamaker Trophy. After a long and tearful embrace with his wife, Young Ju Park, he walked across a bridge saluting thousands of fans who couldn’t believe what they saw. What a finale to this year in the majors. Kenny Perry was poised to become the oldest Masters

champion at 48 until Angel Cabrera beat him in a playoff. Phil Mickelson, reeling from his wife being diagnosed with breast cancer, was on the verge of finally winning the U.S. Open until Lucas Glover outplayed him over the final few holes. And just last month, 59-year-old Tom Watson was an 8-foot par putt away from winning the British Open, then lost in a playoff to Stewart Cink. Woods losing a two-shot lead in the final round of a major? That was unthinkable — until a breezy afternoon at Hazeltine.

“I played well enough the entire week to win the championship,” Woods said. “You have to make putts. I didn’t do that. Today was a day that didn’t happen.” Before Yang, Asian-born players had come close in the majors — Lu Liang-huan of Taiwan finishing one shot behind Lee Trevino at the 1971 British Open, and T.C. Chen’s famous two-chip gaffe that cost him a chance at the 1985 U.S. Open, where he was runner-up to Andy North. This could be a big breakthrough for Asian players, especially with a World Golf Championship starting this year in China. As for the PGA Championship, what remains is whether it will be remembered more for Yang’s victory or Woods losing a 54-hole lead for the first time in a major. “He went out there and executed his game plan,” Woods said. “He was doing exactly what you have to do,

especially in these conditions. I think he played beautifully.” This was a two-man race throughout the back nine, especially after defending champion Padraig Harrington imploded in the group ahead of them on the par-3 eighth. Harrington was one shot behind when he hit two shots in the water — including a chip from behind the green, just like last week at Firestone — and took a quintuple-bogey 8. He shot a 78. Woods three-putted for bogey at No. 4 for the second straight day and made bogey from the bunker at No. 8, sending the final pairing to the back nine in a tie for the lead. Woods regained the lead with a 3-wood on the 606-yard 11th hole onto the green, only to give it back with a bogey on the 12th after he hit a wild hook into the trees. He twice missed birdie putts inside 10 feet — at No. 10 and No. 13 — and then momentum shifted to Yang. With the tees again moved forward to 301 yards, Yang came up just short. He watched Woods play a good bunker shot to 8 feet, then knocked in his chip. “That’s when I thought, ‘I do have a chance,’” Yang said. He was steady. Woods was sloppy. Woods chunked a 3-wood trying for the green in two at the 15th, then missed another 10-foot birdie putt to tie. Both bogeyed the 17th hole, Woods with a shot he thought was pure until it landed into thick rough over the green. □



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PG-13	<b>G.I. JOE THE RISE OF THE COBRA</b>	daily: 5:45	8:30			
		matinee: 12:30	3:15	late show:	11:15	
PG-13	<b>TRANSFORMER 2</b>	daily: 8:00				
		matinee:		late show:	11:00	
R	<b>THE HANGOVER</b>	daily: 7:30	10:00			
		matinee:		late show:	12:15	
R	<b>THE ORPHAN</b>	daily: 6:15	8:45			
		matinee: 12:45	3:30	late show:	11:30	
PG	<b>HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE</b>	daily: 4:15				
		matinee: 1:00		late show:		
PG	<b>ICE AGE 3 DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS</b>	daily: 4:00	6:00			
		matinee: 12:00	2:00	late show:		
PG	<b>ALIENS IN THE ATTIC</b>	daily: 5:00	7:15	9:30		
		matinee: 12:15	2:45	late show:	12:00	

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PG-13	<b>DISTRICT 9</b>	daily: 5:30	7:45	10:15		NEW
		matinee: 1:00	3:15	late show:	12:30	
R	<b>FUNNY PEOPLE</b>	daily: 6:00	9:00			
		matinee: 12:00	3:00	late show:	12:00	
PG-13	<b>THE PROPOSAL</b>	daily: 9:30				
		matinee:		late show:	12:15	
PG	<b>HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE</b>	daily: 4:30	8:00			
		matinee: 1:15		late show:	11:15	
R	<b>THE HANGOVER</b>	daily: 7:30	10:00			
		matinee:		late show:	12:30	
PG	<b>G-FORCE</b>	daily: 5:00	7:15			
		matinee: 12:45	2:45	late show:		
PG-13	<b>JULIE AND JULIA</b>	daily: 4:45				
		matinee: 2:00		late show:		
R	<b>THE UGLY TRUTH</b>	daily: 4:45	7:00	9:15		
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# Con apoyo militar EEUU terrorismo y narco no se recuperará

BOGOTA - A días de concretar un acuerdo que permitirá a militares estadounidenses operar desde siete bases en Colombia, el presidente Álvaro Uribe expresó el domingo que con el apoyo acordado con el gobierno de Washington se consolidarán los logros en materia de seguridad de su gobierno. La guerrilla y los narcotraficantes “a medida que ven que damos estos pasos (el acuerdo con Estados Unidos), van perdiendo la ilusión de que en algún momento pueden recuperarse en Colombia”, aseguró Uribe en una ceremonia de rendición de cuentas transmitida por la televisora estatal Señal Colombia. Aseguró que su política de seguridad “no tiene reversa” y mantiene el propósito

de que a los guerrilleros y los narcotraficantes “hay que derrotarlos totalmente”. Consideró que el convenio alcanzado con Washington y que probablemente sea firmado en el curso de la semana siguiente, “es un paso en la dirección correcta”. Colombia y Estados Unidos concluyeron el viernes la negociación para el uso de siete bases militares en todo el territorio, a fin de que aviones y personal norteamericano puedan llevar a cabo labores de inteligencia en la lucha contra el terrorismo y el tráfico de narcóticos. El comandante de las fuerzas armadas, general Freddy Padilla de León, declaró que en la negociación “todos los puntos fueron de mutuo

acuerdo y no hubo imposición de temas. La negociación se hizo respetando las constituciones de ambas naciones”, según publicó el domingo el diario colombiano El Tiempo. Durante una explicación que Padilla ofreció en julio a través de la televisión nacional sobre el uso de las bases, señaló que las fuerzas colombianas y las estadounidenses compartirán información de inteligencia en tiempo real. También sostuvo que todas las acciones de los militares estadounidenses en Colombia serán supervisadas y autorizadas por Colombia y que las fuerzas estadounidenses no podrán lanzar operaciones hacia terceros países. El convenio tendría una



Casi en paralelo a esa confirmación, el presidente de Colombia, Álvaro Uribe, expresó su voluntad de diálogo a los Gobiernos de Venezuela y Ecuador para intentar recomponer las maltrechas relaciones bilaterales. EFE/Archivo

duración de 10 años y ha sido criticado por presidentes de Sudamérica que consideran amenazante la presencia militar estadounidense en el subcontinente.

Uribe asistirá el 28 de agosto a Bariloche, Argentina, donde explicará el acuerdo en una cumbre de la Unión de Naciones Suramericanas convocada para el efecto. □

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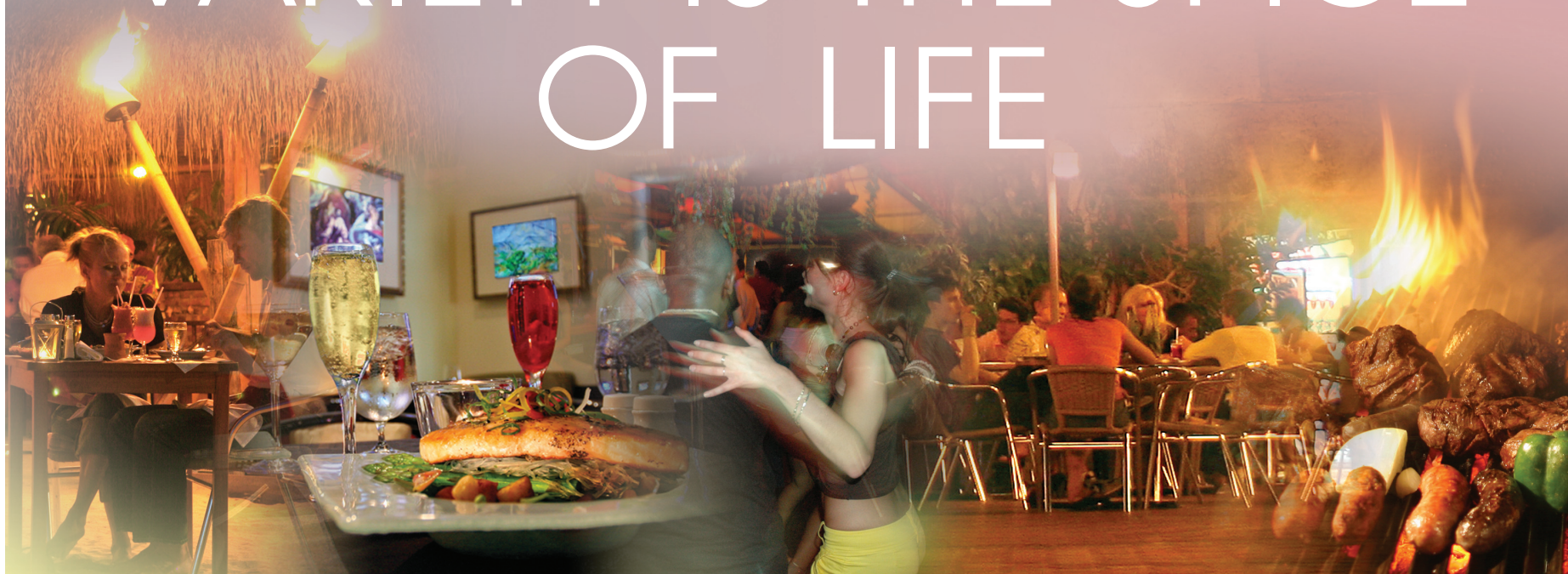
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